

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING FRIENDSHIP MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SERVICE TO THE PONTIAC COMMUNITY

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary of service to the Pontiac community. As a Member of Congress, it is my privilege to honor the Church, its leadership and its congregation on achieving this most impressive milestone.

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church began its service to the community as a house of fellowship, joining the community together to affirm the goodness of spirituality under the vision of Reverend Alvin Hawkins, the Church's first Pastor. Under Rev. Hawkins' leadership, the congregation of Friendship flourished, creating a Sunday School, nurses' guild, and a music ministry. Furthermore, to forever enshrine and guide them in their greater service to the community, the congregation adopted a covenant and the Articles of Faith.

After seven years of service to the community through piety, charity and faith, Rev. Hawkins was called to a new journey, and leadership of the Church was entrusted to Rev. Eddie McDonald. Rev. McDonald, another man of vision and action, guided Friendship in its spiritual journey, creating an outreach ministry and a young women's group. During the prosperity of Rev. McDonald's strong stewardship, the Church paid off the mortgage on its first home on Williams Street and expanded its congregation, eventually seeking a larger space on Michigan Street, its current home.

It was with great sadness that the congregation of Friendship Baptist Church said farewell to Rev. McDonald after 32 years, but with hope for the future, they welcomed in Rev. William Dulaney. Rev. Dulaney has continued upon the steadfast and strong leadership of his predecessors and established the Learning Lab and youth department to further expand the service of the Church to the community. Under his leadership, the congregation of Friendship continues to grow strong.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me, and the congregation of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in celebrating their 50th Anniversary of fellowship in spirituality and service. I wish the congregants and leadership of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church many more years of prosperity to come.

HONORING THE MILITARY SERVICE OF LANCE CORPORAL ANTHONY ROBERTSON

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lance Corporal Anthony Robertson of the United States Marine Corps.

Lance Corporal Robertson grew up in Justice, Illinois and currently lives in neighboring Willow Springs. After joining the Marines, he was deployed to Afghanistan. While there, he was severely injured by a roadside bomb. It was an honor to personally congratulate and thank Lance Corporal Robertson, and his wife, Sheri Robertson for his brave service when we met on July 26th at a welcome home celebration conducted by the Village of Justice. His sacrifice will rightfully be honored with a Purple Heart—our Nation's oldest actively used military medal.

It is a privilege to welcome home to his family and community someone who has given so much. As Lance Corporal Robertson prepares to enter the ranks of almost 600,000 living veterans who have received the Purple Heart Medal, I ask you to join me in honoring his service, and the work of all men and women in uniform who have shed blood in the service of our country.

HONORING MR. ALVARO BOTERO

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, this week Colombia celebrates 200 years as a sovereign nation. As we congratulate our democratic ally and friend on its Bicentennial, it is fitting that we also honor some of Colombia's finest, and among them, is Alvaro Botero.

Alvaro is a respected journalist, author and writer. He is a strong advocate for freedom of the press. He knows that many around the world are censored and prohibited from speaking the truth, so he values his ability to write and report in a free and democratic society. Alvaro is committed to keeping the connection between his native Colombia and his home of 23 years, South Florida. He works hard to ensure that the Colombian American community in the United States is informed and in tune with what is happening in Colombia, South Florida and around the world.

For more than 16 years, Alvaro has published "El Notiloco de Botero" a satirical news magazine and in recent years launched a corresponding news site. He started his career in Colombia studying journalism and public relations. His work has appeared in publications throughout Latin America and the United

States and he has published several books, earning recognitions at the Feria Internacional de Libro, International Book Fair. Alvaro has served as a correspondent for Colombian news network RCN, RCN Radio and RCN Miami, and was instrumental in the creation of Radio Caracol, South Florida's Colombian Radio Station, with daily programming in the United States and Colombia.

Alvaro works to promote democracy and speak out for those who cannot express themselves freely as he can, and he continues to humor us each day through his writing. After 23 years of living in Miami, he is still as passionate about his native Colombia as he is about his home, the United States.

I ask that you join me in honoring Alvaro Botero, a fine journalist, friend and the voice of South Florida's Colombian American community.

HONORING MACCULLOCH HALL

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Macculloch Hall, in Morristown, New Jersey, which is celebrating its 200th anniversary, as well as the 60th anniversary of the Macculloch Hall Historical Museum.

The cornerstone of Morristown's National Historic District, Macculloch Hall Historical Museum preserves the history of the Macculloch-Miller families and the Morris area, and the legacy of its founder, the Honorable W. Parsons Todd through its historic site, collections, exhibits, educational and cultural programs.

George Macculloch emigrated with his family to America from London and in 1810 built the Federal-style brick mansion in Morristown. Macculloch is best known as the "father" of the Morris Canal, an international engineering marvel. Mrs. Macculloch was instrumental in establishing St. Peter's Episcopal Church and the Female Charitable Society, today Family Service of Morris County. The family and their descendants influenced education, economics, politics and culture.

In 1949, Morristown philanthropist and former mayor, W. Parsons Todd, purchased and restored Macculloch Hall to house his collections of American and English decorative and fine arts as well as a major collection of original works by Thomas Nast, America's leading 19th century political cartoonist. Nast once lived across the avenue and created the Republican Elephant, the Democratic Donkey, and popularized America's image of Santa Claus.

With the Morristown Garden Club, Todd restored Macculloch Hall's gardens—the oldest in Morris County. Three acres of original plantings and landscape features include more than 40 varieties of heirloom roses; the first documented tomato grown in New Jersey is

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

said to have been grown here. The garden is a popular retreat and is open to the public from dusk to dawn.

Through the efforts of its Trustees, staff, members and volunteers, Macculloch Hall Historical Museum continues to serve thousands of annual visitors from the greater Morristown, New Jersey community and throughout the United States, who come to the site to enjoy the beauty and history portrayed by its collections, engage with compelling political history in the works of Thomas Nast, and experience the tranquility of the historic gardens.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating Macculloch Hall as they celebrate these milestones.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 480, 481, and 482, I was absent due to a commitment to speak to a large group in the Cannon Caucus Room, and could not leave them in mid-meeting.

Had I been present, I would have voted 480: "yes"; 481: "no"; 482: "yes."

SUPPORTING OF JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL

HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the accomplishments of Junipero Serra High School which is located in Gardena, California in my district. Serra High has become the first in California state history to win a state football championship and a state basketball championship in the same school year. Even more remarkable and more important is the fact that for three years running, 100% of Serra High School's graduating seniors were accepted to college.

Junipero Serra High School is operated by the Department of Catholic Schools of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Serra High School was founded in 1950 and graduated its first class in 1953. Over the years, the school has played a very important role in the life of the community, graduating over six thousand students in the South Bay area.

Serra's recent achievements add immensely to its already strong legacy. In December, the Cavaliers became the California Interscholastic Federation's Division III state champions in football with a victory that was "as much a triumph of athletic skill as one of perseverance from year to year and play to play," as local newspaper the Daily Breeze stated. Against Marin Catholic High School, the Cavaliers won 24–20, establishing themselves as a dominant force in the very competitive California high school football climate.

In March, Serra High School captured the Division III basketball championship with a 63–59 overtime victory over Oakland's Bishop O'Dowd completing the historic double victory.

Not Santa Ana's Mater Dei, not Concord's De La Salle, not Los Angeles' Crenshaw High, not Long Beach Poly—no athletic powerhouse, private or public in California, had completed such a feat until Serra High did it. At the end of the 2009–10 school year, Serra's athletic program was rated by ESPN as the fourth best all-around high school athletic program in the USA and the number one program in California. I also understand the Cavalier Track team came within two points of being state champions and that the Girls Basketball and Track teams have also excelled.

I congratulate President Erick Rubalcava, Principal Michael Wagner, Athletic Director Ted Dunlap, Head Football Coach Scott Altenberg, Head Basketball Coach Dwan Hurt, their assistant coaches, the entire school staff and all of the amazing faculty and students at Serra for their excellence both in academics and athletics.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I was detained from votes due to a meeting on July 28, 2010. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: rollcall 477, "nay" rollcall 478; "yea" rollcall 479, "yea."

HONORING MR. RICARDO TRIBIN

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, this week Colombia celebrates 200 years as a sovereign nation. As we congratulate our democratic ally and friend on its Bicentennial, it is fitting that we also honor some of Colombia's finest, and among them is Ricardo Tribin.

As former President of the Colombian American Chamber of Commerce and current Board Member, Ricardo continues to be a leader for small businesses in South Florida. He has created opportunities for Colombian Americans to become successful business men and women, immerse themselves in the world of trade and commerce, and expand their businesses. As a consultant and businessman himself, Ricardo has been able to use his knowledge and experience to help others, and does so with humility and professionalism. He has successfully authored and published a number of self-help books in the United States and Colombia, encouraging others to move past life's most difficult challenges and find strength to achieve success in both personal and professional settings.

Ricardo is also fully engaged in ensuring that the needs of his community are met and actively participates in the democratic process. He understands the need for a Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Colombia and the positive impact it would have on the South Florida economy by creating jobs. As such, he has been a leading voice in urging passage of the deal. Ricardo is

also a firm believer in the principles of liberty and freedom and works to ensure that his native Colombia continues to be Latin America's leading democracy.

I ask that you join me in honoring and thanking my good friend Ricardo Tribin for his hard work, service and dedication to free enterprise, empowering others, and seeing his community flourish.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS G. DENOMME

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Thomas Denomme, the 2010 recipient of the Community Service Award given by the Birmingham Community House, located in Birmingham, Michigan. Since it was established in 1923, the Birmingham Community House has been a community institution and hub of civic life in our area.

Mr. Denomme's recognition is well-deserved. His personal and professional accomplishments and contributions have made the Birmingham community, and indeed, Southeast Michigan, a better place to live, raise our children and do business.

Mr. Denomme's career began in southeast Michigan after obtaining his marketing degree from the University of Detroit in 1961. He embarked on a career in the automotive world at Ford Motor Company and spent 20 years there before moving to the Chrysler Corporation in 1980. He was a leader at Chrysler, serving as a Vice-Chairman and the Chief Administrative Officer during the 1990s.

While working in a key industry in Michigan, Tom remained committed to civic activism in a variety of arenas. He served his alma mater, the University of Detroit, as a tireless advocate and by serving on its Board of Trustees for a number of years. He lent his time, energy and expertise to a number of major community efforts and organizations including the Michigan Thanksgiving Parade Foundation, the Michigan Gaming Commission, the Detroit Investment Fund, and the Congressional Economic Leadership Initiative.

Currently, Mr. Denomme serves as Chairman of the Board for William Beaumont Hospital, a nationally renowned and respected health institution that is centered in my Congressional District. His service to that institution and the surrounding community was recognized recently when he received the Michigan Health and Hospital Association Keystone Center for Patient Safety and Quality Leadership Award.

Madam Speaker, I am honored today to recognize Thomas Denomme for his years of service to the people and institutions of Birmingham, Michigan and all of Southeast Michigan. We live in a better community due to his selfless commitment to civic service and he serves as an example to us all. I thank the Birmingham Community House for honoring Mr. Tom Denomme this year with its 2010 Community Service Award.

HONORING DR. JOYCE HEDLUND,
PhD

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Joyce Hedlund.

The former president of Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor, Joyce is now the president of Washington County Community College in Calais.

A native of Fort Kent, Joyce has dedicated herself to education for the past 36 years, having started her career in higher education administration at the University of Maine at Fort Kent, then at the University of Maine, Husson University, and finally at Eastern Maine Community College in 1987 as president for sixteen years. Joyce has been credited as a visionary leader and an integral member of her community. She is a member of the Maine Higher Education Council, the state committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Secretary/Treasurer for the Maine Compact for Higher Education, a member of the College Board's New England Community College Advisory Committee, a Commissioner on the ACE Commission on Lifelong Learning and board member for Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems and the Eastern Maine Development Corporation.

An accomplished academic, Joyce holds a PhD from the University of Maine, where she also received her master's and bachelor's degrees in personnel services and counselor education. She is a graduate of the Delta Class of Leadership Maine and is the recipient of the 1998 Kenneth M. Curtis Leadership Award, granted by the Alumni of Leadership Maine.

Joyce is recognized as one of New England's most outstanding college leaders; I am confident she will continue her track record of excellence in her new role with the Washington County community college system. Joyce has left a lasting mark on Eastern Maine Community College and surrounding areas. On behalf of the people of Maine, it is with pride that I congratulate Joyce for her excellent work; I would also like to offer my continued support and best wishes.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring Dr. Joyce Hedlund for her continued commitment to the education of Maine's students.

STRIDE, STRIDE BY STRIDE: SGT
KENDRA COLEMAN, 173RD SPECIAL
TROOPS BATTALION, AIRBORNE,
THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. JIM MARSHALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Georgia's finest! On May 11, 2010 in Charkh Afghanistan, an American Hero named Sergeant Kendra Coleman of The 173rd Special Troops Battalion Airborne, United States Army almost lost her life in an IED explosion. Clinging to life, and

losing her leg she had a choice to make, give up or get up! She chose to get up and begin her run to recovery! In just a few short months she traveled so far and so fast in her recovery. The strides she has made, have taught us all so much, and will continue to bless us all. She is a shining example of the type of women and men who serve our Nation in The United States Armed Forces, and their families quiet courage who help them to recover. Kendra and her husband Brandon, are rebuilding their life at record pace, and they make us all proud to be Americans. I ask that this poem penned in honor of them by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

STRIDE, STRIDE BY STRIDE

Stride,
Stride by Stride!
Step, Step by Step!
All within a fine heart resides. . . .
All in what, a heart of honor so excepts. . . .
So excepts, so deep down inside!
This gift from God!
That which so brings tears, to even the Angel's eyes. . . .
Our Nation blesses, with all of your most
selfless sacrifice so yes this. . . .
As yes you Kendra, are but where courage
lies. . . . where Courage Crest's!
A Hero who goes off to war. . . .
All for our God and Country Tis of Thee, as
was your burden bore!
When, all in the midst of most evil war. . . .
A hero lies bleeding, clinging to life. . . . As
Such Strength In Honor. . . .
Faith In Heart's, she is so needing!
As when you looked down, and saw what this
war had found!
As when, your most courageous heart began
to pound. . . .
With only one leg now!
As you hit the ground running, for nothing
was going to hold you down!
Wiping those tears from your most beautiful
eyes, and as you began to stride!
Step by Step! Stride by Stride, as defeat you
would not except! RISE!
Going The Distance, When Courage Crests!
To Teach Us! To So Beseech Us! To All
Hearts, To So Reach Us!
Running To Recovery, upon wings of courage
you now so glide!
Because, your Army Strong! Because, The
Title Hero. . . . upon you so belongs!
Mothers! Fathers! Teach your daughters
about this great American Love Song!
And The Steps We Take, The Strides We
Must Make! All to live a great life!
Kendra, at such a great pace. . . . your fine
heart so runs this night!
Oh how you Shine, 'Oh how you bring your
light!
In life, What Steps do take?
What strides must we so make?
To Heaven rise!
Hooah! Kendra. . . .
Oh how you touch our hearts inside!
With each new Stride!
Stride By Stride!

HERO DAJA WANGCHUK MESTON

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues the untimely passing of a brave and heroic man who made the cause of fighting for the people of Tibet his life's calling.

Daja Wangchuk Meston served as my guide when I traveled to Tibet in 1997. Accompanied

only by my late chief of staff Charlie White and Daja, I was at the time just the second sitting member of the U. S. House of Representatives to visit Tibet since the Chinese occupation began in 1959. We traveled with U.S. passports and on tourist visas issued by the government of China. At no time did anyone ask nor did I make known that I was a member of Congress. Had I done so, I am sure that my visit would not have been approved, just as other members of Congress requesting permission to visit Tibet have been turned down.

I couldn't have made the trip without Daja. He knew the Tibetan people and their struggles against iron-fisted Chinese rule. He opened the doors for my meetings with persecuted monks, men and women on the street and others who risked their personal safety and well-being to steal a few moments alone with me to reveal the unspeakable conditions in Tibet and to petition help and support from the West. He later paid the price for his heroism when he returned to Tibet to investigate the Chinese government's population resettlement program underwritten by the World Bank. He was subsequently captured, tortured and imprisoned by Chinese authorities, and badly injured when he tried to escape by jumping from a window. He endured a harrowing experience before his release.

In our search for modern-day heroes, Daja Wangchuk Meston is a true hero. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to know him. I submit for the RECORD a moving account of Daja's life written by Linda Anna Mancini, coordinator of the Boston Tibet Network, who worked closely with Daja. The Boston Tibet Network links various Tibetan support groups, local individuals, national and international organizations, and the Tibetan Association of Boston.

Daja Wangchuk Meston was beautiful in his modesty, strength and honesty. Powerful in his choices. This hero would not be called by that title when he was with us, but now that he has left us, I feel compelled to name him the hero that he was. Brave in the face of danger, with strength above tragedy, Wangchuk was a hero. It was my honor to know him. Such a beautiful man.

With so much sadness at his death, I look at his brave life for comfort. While remembering his work, I can treasure his dignity and all that he achieved. May the memory of his beauty and achievements sustain his family and all who loved him and cherish him still.

Certainly His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the most significant treasure to Tibetans and Tibet supporters. He is a great leader. And, as he knows, the actions of many others also shed a light—Wangchuk was one, a bright light. We are all indebted to him. The moment of his capture in Amdo in 1999 galvanized the Tibetan struggle into the unified grass roots movement that has held strong since that time.

The Tibetan issue in itself is truly an ocean of suffering. Each person's story is distinctive, whether born in Tibet, or India, or the states—or, in Wangchuk's case, an American raised as a Tibetan. Wangchuk was born in Switzerland, child of Americans who traveled to Nepal where his mother placed him with a Tibetan family and later, when he was 6, into the monastery. His mother lived as a nun in India, while his father returned to California burdened with great personal challenges. At 17 Wangchuk left the monastery and came to the states. After a few years, he attended Brandeis. How valiant he

was when he first arrived, young teenager alone, wearing jeans, not maroon robes. Looking for his birth family, an education and his American self. He found his dear wife—they understood too well both tragedy and exile. They courageously trusted each other, shared love and pain and family, and the struggle for human rights in Tibet.

It was the spring of 1999 when I met Wangchuk. He was impressive, knowledgeable. We were just a group of people interested in Tibet who gathered to share ideas. We formed an alliance, the Boston Tibet Network (BTN) to share information and be able to act on it. Present were Tibetan Buddhists, folks from Amnesty, a scholar archivist of Tibetan Buddhist texts, a Harvard professor, those interested in Tibet, in Buddhism, in social justice. All concerned about the well being of Tibetans in Tibet and those in exile, about human rights and non-violent action. The network still exists, we now know each other well and continue to work toward the same goals.

A few months after our first meetings, Wangchuk went to Tibet. He went in August to investigate, see what was happening to the nomads in Amdo at the hands of the Chinese. He was outstandingly brave to do this. He knew there was danger. The Tibetan movement had learned that the World Bank, contrary to their own mandate, had financed Chinese population resettlement. Tibet supporters worldwide protested loudly with marches and more. Bowing to international pressure, the Chinese government said all were welcome to visit and explore their nomad resettlement project which they claimed was beneficial; yet the pattern was set—the Chinese were perpetually hard about all things Tibetan. Wangchuk was one of those who decided to take them at their word and go and see their project.

Once there Wangchuk was quickly captured by the Chinese, questioned and tortured. Despairing of ever being released, he jumped from a window trying to escape. He was seriously injured and held in a nearby hospital by the Chinese.

For BTN our first group action was to announce the terrible news that Wangchuk was imprisoned. We begged the Chinese government to release him and lobbied our own government to assist in freeing him. The Chinese made his release difficult, so Wangchuk's wife Phuntsok and their friend, Carl, went to China to get him. A harrowing experience but finally they returned to the states and he was admitted to Brigham and Womens' Hospital for a long stay.

August of 1999, Wangchuk's imprisonment, his subsequent injuries and release, world protests—all this was a pivotal moment for the Tibetan movement. The World Bank relented to demands and stopped the funding to the Chinese for nomad resettlement in Amdo. The Tibetan movement was energized and Tibet supporters became a strongly united grass roots movement that has continued to grow powerful all these years since.

Wangchuk was heroic to go to Amdo. He was brave when he endured the endless surgeries needed to rebuild his shattered feet. He was generous to write his autobiography "Comes the Peace" and share his personal life, thoughts and feelings. He was happy with his wife and their boutique "Karma" where they shared workdays and he told stories to friends and shoppers, and enjoyed his Newton Center community.

Yes, it hurts that he is not with us anymore, and that he chose to leave us. But I am

so grateful to have known Wangchuk, he was a hero. Such an honest man, he took my breath away. He is remembered well.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN LEWIS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on July 28, 2010 I was unable to cast rollcall votes 476 through 482. Had I been here I would have cast the following votes: on rollcall No. 476, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 477, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 478, I would have voted "yes"; on rollcall No. 479, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 480, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 481, I would have voted "no"; on rollcall No. 482, I would have voted "yes."

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5850) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes:

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 5850, the "Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2011." This bill includes important funding and necessary investments in our transportation, housing and other critical aspects of this country's infrastructure. This bill also provides assistance to the most vulnerable Americans, including the homeless, disabled, low-income and elderly. Additionally, this bill provides support for our veterans who serve this nation so valiantly and who have earned a right to adequate housing.

Mr. Chair, this bill includes funding for critical transportation projects that will improve mobility and stimulate economic activity in communities across the country. What I am particularly proud of is the funding for two light rail lines in Houston, Texas—the North and Southeast lines. These projects have successfully gone through the Federal Transit Administration's New Starts review process, and I am looking forward to passage of this bill and funding of these projects. As the fourth largest city in the country, we are anxiously awaiting construction of an integrated rail network that will create jobs, provide mobility and spur economic development. Funding for these projects will be a significant step towards achieving our goals.

This bill also invests in National Infrastructure to Support Jobs. It includes funding for:

Highway infrastructure

There is \$45.2 billion in the bill to improve and repair our nation's aging highway infrastructure. It is estimated that this increased investment will support more than 142,000 additional jobs across all sectors of the economy, according to the job model developed by the Department of Transportation (DOT). According to the DOT's 2008 Conditions and Performance Report, an average annual investment of \$105.6 billion from all levels of government is needed just to sustain the current conditions of our highways and bridges, and \$174.6 billion is needed to improve our current system. In addition, the report of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission issued in December 2007 recommended investing \$225 billion annually over the next 50 years to maintain, upgrade, and expand our transportation networks.

Public Transportation Investments

There is also \$11.3 billion to support bus and rail projects, including capital expenditures. The increase from last year will support an estimated 20,000 additional jobs for transit workers around the country. The Federal Transit Administration estimates that our nation's public transportation system has a state-of-good-repair backlog of nearly \$78 billion.

Public Housing Capital Fund

Additionally, the bill includes \$2.5 billion to help Public Housing Authorities make critical repairs and improvements to public housing units and improve living conditions for residents, including green and sustainable rehabilitation. Every dollar invested in the Capital Fund produces \$2.12 in economic return for local economies.

HOPE VI

The bill also includes \$200 million for grants to rehabilitate distressed public housing neighborhoods by transforming them into sustainable mixed-income communities. This transformation will help create jobs in the hard-hit construction industry and will revitalize distressed neighborhoods.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

In addition, the bill provides for \$4.35 billion to spur local construction and development. The CDBG program works to ensure decent affordable housing, to provide services to the most vulnerable in our communities, and to create jobs through the expansion and retention of businesses. CDBG helps local governments tackle serious challenges facing their communities and makes a difference in the lives of millions of people across the nation.

Passenger Rail Grant Program

Also included in the bill is \$1.4 billion to expand and improve intercity passenger rail and develop a robust national high speed rail system, which will create jobs and reinvigorate our manufacturing base. Additionally, this investment will help reduce our dependence on fossil fuels and decrease congestion between cities across the country.

by providing a transportation alternative for congested highways and air space.

Amtrak

There is \$1.77 billion in the bill to make capital investments, including improvements to Amtrak's fleet and upgrades to Amtrak stations to ensure they are accessible for the disabled. This increase above FY 2010 will save or create an additional 1,130 jobs.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

This bill includes vital support for vulnerable populations who need our help in a difficult economic environment. Included are the following:

Foreclosure Mitigation and Housing Counseling Funds

The bill includes \$113 million to support foreclosure counseling for families through NeighborWorks America and \$88 million for the Department of Housing and Urban Development's housing counseling assistance program to provide help for low and moderate income families before they purchase a home.

Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing Vouchers

I am very pleased to know that we are taking care of our veterans by including \$75 million for housing vouchers for homeless veterans, coordinated with supportive services from the VA Medical Centers. This funding will support 10,000 new vouchers and supports the effort to end veteran homelessness.

Housing and Services for Homeless Persons Demonstration

This bill also includes \$85 million for a new demonstration coordinated between HUD and HHS to couple housing vouchers and mainstream health services for 10,000 homeless persons and individuals. Homeless individuals need both housing and services to build self-sufficiency, and integrating the programs of HUD and HHS in a seamless manner for these families and individuals will provide comprehensive support for long-term housing stability.

Public Housing Operating Fund

Also included is \$4.849 billion to support public housing units' maintenance and energy costs. The public housing inventory consists of more than 1.1 million units of housing to support low-income persons, whose average income level is \$13,346.

Section 8 Tenant Based Rental Assistance

This bill also includes \$19.4 billion to renew all vouchers currently in use and allow more than 2 million low income families to stay in their homes. Included in this total is \$113 million to renew housing vouchers for persons with disabilities and \$60 million to support the Family Self-Sufficiency program, which helps families increase income and move out of assisted housing.

Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance

Additionally, this bill includes \$9.4 billion to support the 1.3 million units of housing assisted. The average annual income of a resident of this form of housing is \$11,217, and

more than 57 percent are either elderly or disabled.

Housing for the Elderly

Funding in the amount of \$825 million is included in the bill to support affordable housing for the elderly by constructing approximately 3,200 new units and keeping over 50,000 elderly Americans in their homes.

Housing for the Disabled

The bill also includes \$300 million to support affordable housing for the disabled by constructing approximately 1,400 new units and keeping over 13,000 Americans with disabilities in their homes.

Indian Housing

A very important measure in this bill includes \$700 million to support and construct affordable housing for American Indians. These funds will assist over 540 tribes, provide rental assistance to over 57,000 families, and add approximately 8,000 housing units to the over 26,000 housing units constructed and 54,000 housing units rehabilitated by this program since 1998.

Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)

Additionally, the bill includes \$350 million to prevent homelessness among persons with AIDS. Up to 70 percent of all people living with HIV or AIDS report a lifetime experience of homelessness or housing instability and the HIV/AIDS death rate is seven to nine times higher for homeless adults than for the general population. This funding will provide housing assistance for over 60,000 households nationwide.

Homeless Assistance Grants

The bill also provides \$2.2 billion for permanent and transitional housing for homeless families and individuals. It is important to note that this is the first year of implementation of the HEARTH Act, which will support both the prevention of, and rapid resolution of, homelessness in America.

Reverse Mortgages

Also included is \$150 million to support elderly homeowners and assist them in keeping their homes rather than forcing them to move to expensive assisted living facilities. This funding level is important because it will keep the program running in 2011 at expected volume levels.

ENSURING SAFE TRANSPORTATION

Aviation Safety Programs

The bill provides \$1.3 billion for the Federal Aviation Administration's, FAA, safety enforcement efforts including \$17 million to hire 122 additional safety inspectors to assist with NextGen development and the oversight of foreign repair stations. This additional funding will help meet the safety goals established in the FAA's Administrator's Call to Action in the aftermath of the tragic Colgan air crash.

Highway Safety Programs

Also included in the bill is \$891.2 million for the programs of the National Highway Traffic

Safety Administration to make America's roads safer by encouraging safety belt use, preventing drinking and driving, improving child safety, enhancing motorcyclist safety, and other initiatives.

Railroad Safety Technology Program

There is also \$75 million to provide grants to help deploy positive train control, PTC, systems, which perform a critical safety function on rail lines with mixed freight and passenger traffic. These funds will help train operators with the estimated \$5.5 billion necessary for initial PTC system acquisition and implementation, which is required on all lines that jointly operate passenger and freight traffic by December 15, 2015.

Mr. Chair, this bill includes crucial support for our transportation, housing and infrastructure that will create jobs for Americans all across this country. It also includes vital support for veterans and vulnerable populations such as the elderly, low-income, and homeless who need a lifeline in the midst of this economic storm. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, on July 29, 2010, I was absent from the House and missed rollcall votes 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, and 499.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 491, "yes" on rollcall No. 492, "yes" on rollcall No. 493, "yes" on rollcall No. 494, "yes" on rollcall No. 495, "yes" on rollcall No. 496, "yes" on rollcall No. 497, "yes" on rollcall No. 498, and "no" on rollcall No. 499.

RECOGNIZING THE SALEM UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Salem United Church of Christ in Alhambra, Illinois for their 150th Anniversary of ministry.

The origins of the church date back to 1860 when German immigrants settled in and around Alhambra and formed a congregation with a small church that was without a tower or steeple. In 1877, the congregation decided to build a new Gothic style church. The congregation has since added a parish hall for a gathering place for young and old alike for many activities. Since they built their first church with timbers cut in a steam-powered mill, the members of the Salem United Church

of Christ have been diligent in care of their sanctuary.

While the congregation takes pride in their sanctuary and other buildings, it is not the property, but the worship and all the activities of the congregation that are the heart of the church. This anniversary is the celebration of 150 years of steadfast worship where there have been 2,189 Baptisms, 1,640 Confirmations, 690 Marriages and 1,514 Funerals recorded since 1860.

Descendents of families who first organized the church are among those who continue to welcome new members to worship. Together all the members of the Salem United Church of Christ honor the past as well as look to the future of their church.

TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY SPC. 1ST
CLASS DAMON SHONTELL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise in solemn tribute to the memory of a patriotic young man from South Alabama who recently passed away while honorably serving our Nation.

On July 5, 2010, U.S. Army Spc. 1st Class Damon Shontell, age 22 of Grand Bay, Alabama, died at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

A graduate of Alma Bryant High School in Irvington, Alabama, Spc. Shontell joined the Army after receiving his diploma. He was known for his deep and abiding patriotism and his determination to serve his country. He planned to pursue a degree in engineering upon completion of his military service.

After entering the Army, Damon attended Military Police Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri in June 2006. After completion of his training, he was transferred to Fort Hood, Texas, where he was stationed with the 64th Military Police Company. In May 2007, Spc. Shontell deployed with the 64th MP Company to Iraq where he bravely defended his comrades in gun battles with the enemy. In July 2008, he returned to Fort Hood for another 12 months before transferring to the 17th Military Police Detachment at Fort Jackson in July 2009. He continued to serve at Fort Jackson as a Military Policeman, and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), Army Achievement Medal, Overseas Service Ribbon, Global War on Terrorism Medal, National Defense Service Medal, and the Iraq Campaign Medal.

He was a devoted soldier who witnessed the hardship and sacrifice of war, but he never faltered in his dedication to duty.

Madam Speaker, we owe so much to those who wear the uniform of our country and put themselves in harm's way to ensure our safety and security.

Even more than the loss of a hero, there is no greater loss than the loss of a child. Spc. Damon Shontell's father, David, personally wrote me a touching letter about the tremendous void that has been created in his life through the passing of his only child, who was also his best friend.

Mr. Shontell also asked me to express his gratitude to those personnel at Fort Jackson who treated him with "love, respect, trust and

brotherhood" and who so honored his son. In keeping with his request, I bring to the attention of the U.S. House those officers who deserve special recognition for their compassion: Sgt. Terry Horn, Sgt. Kevin Lasonde, Sgt. William Crews, Sgt. David Beaton, Sgt. Stacy Case, Cpt. Tara Mahoney, Col. James Love, Sgt. Ken Lucas; and, at Fort Rucker, Alabama, Sgt. Michelle Flores.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the people of Alabama, I wish to extend my heartfelt condolences to Spc. 1st Class Shontell's father, David, and his family and friends for their profound personal loss. We all mourn the passing of this very special young man who was taken away from all of us in the prime of his youth. Damon Shontell loved his father, his country, and his God. He will never be forgotten. May he rest in peace.

FAIR SENTENCING ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1789, the Fair Sentencing Act of 2010. For too long, crack cocaine users, predominantly minorities, have been subject to excessive penalties when compared to users of powder cocaine even though both drugs are chemically identical. While this bill does not go far enough towards righting this injustice, it is a tremendous step in the right direction, and I commend Senator DURBIN and the rest of the Senate for passing this long overdue piece of legislation and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, for too long users of crack cocaine were sentenced to prison terms that were much longer than prison terms for users of cocaine, a chemically identical drug. We all know why this is the case. In the 1980's, the United States was in the midst of a crack cocaine epidemic. While cocaine was often considered a harmless, even glamorous, "recreational" drug of privilege, crack cocaine was considered a more harmful drug and was associated with crime and destitution. The reality is that crack cocaine, though chemically identical to cocaine, is less pure and therefore sells for less on the street. As a result, this drug rapidly spread across already impoverished and crime-ridden areas of the country, in many cases making a bad situation worse. As we all know, low income Americans are disproportionately minority. Crack cocaine quickly became associated with minorities, particularly African Americans. It would be more accurate, however, to associate crack cocaine use with poverty than with African Americans. It is important to let the American people know that, at the height of the crack cocaine epidemic in this country, a 1982 the National Survey on Drug Abuse found that 22 million Americans had used cocaine at one time or another. I say this to make it clear that cocaine was as much of an epidemic as crack cocaine during the 1980s. The only difference between crack and cocaine is the user.

In response to the crack cocaine epidemic, Congress passed the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 in a reactionary effort to try and put a stop to the use of crack cocaine. The law was

a part of the so called "war on drugs," a popular political catch phrase at the time. This "war" was launched by stressing the serious social harms of violent crime, theft, social exclusion; with which crack cocaine use was associated.

Current law provides that a person convicted of crack cocaine possession receives the same mandatory prison term as someone who possesses 100 times the same amount of powder cocaine and the law has mandatory minimums for simple possession. Mr. Speaker, let me repeat that. The Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 sets the penalty for possession of crack cocaine at 100 times the penalty for a chemically identical drug, cocaine and sets mandatory minimum sentences for crack cocaine users while setting a mandatory minimum sentence for cocaine users. As a result of this law, wealthy users of cocaine have received more lenient penalties than poor minority users of crack, a chemically identical drug. According to U.S. government statistics, 82 percent of Federal crack cocaine offenders are African American and only 9 percent are white. African-Americans and Latinos were incarcerated at a higher rate because of their drug use preference. In this country, where everyone is born equal, it is absolutely outrageous that the law could be so slanted. It simply makes no sense. As a former Magistrate Judge and defense attorney, I firmly believe that there should be no difference in the ratio of sentencing for crack cocaine and powder cocaine possession.

Over the years, there have been numerous efforts to lower this ratio to a more reasonable difference in sentencing for crack cocaine and powder cocaine. In 2007, The United States Sentencing Commission voted to recommend that this disparity be rectified and existing sentences reduced. Also in 2007, The Supreme Court ruled in *Kimbrough v. United States* that the guidelines for cocaine are advisory only, and that a judge may consider the disparity between the guidelines' treatment of crack and powder cocaine offenses when sentencing a defendant. Finally, today, the United States House of Representatives will consider and hopefully pass a bill that will lower the ratio of sentencing from 100 to 1, to a new ratio of 18 to 1. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill but 18 to 1 is still unnecessary and discriminatory. An 18 to 1 ratio still preserves and institutional disparity between drug sentences of wealthy cocaine users and predominantly poor and African American crack cocaine users.

I support the direction that this bill takes the country however I am disappointed that, after all these years, an institutional disparity will be preserved. I firmly believe that there should be no disparity in the ratio of sentencing between users of crack cocaine and powder cocaine. The ratio should be one to one. This view is shared by both Republicans and Democrats alike. Former D.C. prosecutor, later D.C. Superior Court judge, and present D.C. Federal judge, Judge Reggie B. Walton, a Republican nominated by former President George W. Bush, supports an equalization of the sentencing disparity. Even President Obama stated in 2008 that the sentencing disparity "has disproportionately filled our prisons with young black and Latino drug users." He cited figures that African Americans serve almost as much time for drug offenses, at 58.7 months, as whites do for violent offenses, at 61.7 months. Finally, in early 2009, Attorney General Holder

made it clear where the Administration stands when he said, "One thing is very clear. We must review our Federal cocaine sentencing policy. This administration firmly believes that the disparity in crack and powdered cocaine sentencing is unwarranted. It must be eliminated."

There is absolutely no justification for this racial disparity in federal cocaine sentencing policy. The playing field must be leveled to bring total equality for all races in sentencing for drug use for all variations of the same drug.

I urge my colleagues to take an enormous step in the right direction by supporting this bill to greatly improve this outdated and discriminatory law. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

WOMEN OF THE MUSIC CITY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the accomplishments of the women of Music City. "Let's Hear It For The Girls," the 2010 Source Awards, celebrates the women who helped found the Nashville music industry. Celia Froehlig, Carol Phillips, Sherrytha Scaife, Elizabeth Thiels, Ruth Bland White and Jo Walker Meador Lifetime Achievement Award recipient Frances Williams Preston will be honored at the 8th annual event. "In the long run, you make your own luck—good, bad, or indifferent." Loretta Lynn's words many triumphs ago speak still for the women of today's victories who blaze the musical trail of their own luck.

Nashville's music industry has a dazzled history of women pioneers. Mother Maybelle Carter created the Carter scratch. Kitty Wells was the first female artist to have her own LP. Patsy Cline paved the way for women to sell records as well as men. And Loretta Lynn was the first woman in country music to have 50 Top 10 hits. Paving the way for Dolly Parton's songwriting strengths, Tammy Wynette's sultry vocals, and Reba McEntire's awarded success, the women on whose shoulders today's stars stand are a present part of Nashville's legacy.

The call of women to the varying notes of the music industry is just as strong today as when Sarah "Minnie Pearl" Cannon first graced the Grand Old Opry in 1942. Women have come a long way in the music business, and Nashville continues to celebrate their success in paving the way for tomorrow's high notes. Founded in 1991, Source began the work to unify women executives and professionals that work and succeed in all facets of Nashville's music industry.

With backgrounds as singers, songwriters, pianists, producers, publishers, mothers, wives, sisters, and performers, the honored at the 2010 Source Awards are tied together by the love of music and the stories Nashville tells in the notes she plays. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the accomplishments, vision, and success of the women of Nashville's music industry.

HONORING THE CITY OF FEDERAL WAY, WASHINGTON FOR HOSTING THE 2012 U.S. OLYMPIC DIVING TRIALS

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Federal Way, Washington for being selected to host the 2012 U.S. Olympic Diving Trials.

It was recently announced that the USA Diving and the United States Olympic Committee selected Federal Way to hold the 2012 U.S. Olympic Diving Trials. This prestigious event will be made possible through the partnership with the Seattle Sports Commission, the City of Federal Way, and King County Parks and Recreation with USA Diving and the United States Olympic Committee. Federal Way also hosted the diving trials in 2000, in advance of the Summer Olympic Games held in Sydney, Australia.

The 2012 U.S. Olympic Diving Trials will highlight our country's 100 best divers as they compete to advance to the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, England. Taking place from June 18 to 24, 2012, the trials will be broadcast by NBC from the Weyerhaeuser King County Athletic Center, a world-class facility that was first constructed for the swimming and diving events of the 1990 Goodwill Games and hosts more than 50 competitions annually.

In addition to bringing many of our nation's top athletes together in preparation for the 2012 Summer Games, the Diving Trials are also expected to bring increased tourism to the region and will spotlight the City of Federal Way and the greater Puget Sound Region. In total, USA Diving expects the U.S. Olympic Diving Trials to have an economic impact of \$3.5 million on the Federal Way area.

Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating the City of Federal Way, Washington on this impressive opportunity, and to wish our athletes the best as they prepare for this competition.

IN TRIBUTE TO THE BREEZY POINT COOPERATIVE CELEBRATING THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. WEINER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Breezy Point Cooperative for 50 years of service to the Breezy Point, Roxbury and Rockaway Point communities, which are located on the Rockaway peninsula in Queens, New York, the most populous barrier island in the country.

Though these beachside communities were founded in the late 19th century, it wasn't until 1960 that residents banded together to save the peninsula from being sold out to developers. On November 17 of that year, the Breezy Point Cooperative was organized and a few months later purchased the land that currently comprises Breezy Point. Members of

the community sometimes refer to it as "Cois Farraige", Gaelic for "By the Sea."

The Cooperative fought tirelessly with and alongside the federal government and the National Park Service to preserve the breathtaking and resplendent scenes of nature that surrounded the area, and the Gateway National Recreation area was developed around Breezy Point, where Gateway continues to be one of the greatest treasures Queens County has to offer.

There are several civic groups in Breezy that also deserve recognition at the time of this anniversary. The Roxbury People's Association, headed by Katherine Sebale, the Point Breeze Association, headed by Christopher Stokes, and the Rockaway Point Association, headed by Tom MacLellan, are all organizations that work tirelessly to better their community and strengthen the heart and soul of Breezy Point.

The story of the Breezy Point Cooperative is a story of a community that relies on the strength of its leaders and citizens, and I would like to memorialize this great milestone of 50 years of service and dedication to bettering the community and its neighbors. I wish the residents of Breezy, as well as the General Manager of the cooperative, Arthur Lighthall, the other members of the cooperative's management Denise Neibel, Patricia Kirby, Dennis Dier, Edward Ammirati, and the Board of Directors of the cooperative, Joseph Lynch, Kerry Schreiner-Cardaio, Barney Cassidy, George Donley, Brendan Gallagher, Martin Ingram, Joseph Kerrigan, Robert Pier-son, Matthew Regan, Arthur J. Smith, Thomas Sullivan, Donatina Trotter, John Tully, Thomas Wipf and Robert Lee, congratulations on this important milestone and wish them many happy returns on this happy occasion.

TEMPORARY EXTENSION OF SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAMS

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express strong support for House Resolution 5849, which extends temporary programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958.

It is a well known fact that small businesses drive our economy in a significant way and serve as a stimulator for job creation and economic development. In my congressional district, there are thousands of small businesses which provide work opportunities and facilitate the continuous flow of goods and services which help to keep the economy moving.

Again, I express my strong support for House Resolution 5849 and look forward to its implementation.

TRIBUTE TO MARION STRICKLER ADAMS

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of a much beloved Mobile

businessman and friend, Mr. Marion Strickler Adams Jr., who passed away at age 78 on July 26, 2010, after a courageous battle against lung cancer.

Ma'on, as he was known by his family and many friends, exemplified honor and leadership throughout his endless accomplishments and in everyday life.

While studying at Vanderbilt University, his future leadership skills became apparent with his role as commander of "A" Company in the Naval Reserve.

After graduating Cum Laude, he was commissioned in the United States Navy as an Ensign and served on active duty for two years. He continued as an active member of the Naval Reserve for several years following his discharge, attaining the rank of full lieutenant, along with being a member of the Mobile Council of the Navy League.

Ma'on joined his father's family owned business, Mobile Glass Company, where he served as president until his retirement.

An active member of the community, he was a Rotary Club Paul Harris Fellow and a member of numerous civic and mystic societies.

As a lifelong, faithful member of Government Street Presbyterian Church, Ma'on served in numerous leadership roles on both local church levels and in Presbytery and General Assembly capacities. His faith was the foundation of his life.

His love for family and the outdoors was nurtured during countless summers at Point Clear, and later on at his beloved Mount Pleasant where he enjoyed fishing, hunting, and being surrounded by his adoring children and grandchildren.

A friend to everyone and a devoted family man, he brought great joy to his loved ones.

Ma'on was deeply loved by his wife of 50 years, Ann Greer Adams, his three children, Marion S. Adams III, Sumner Greer Adams, and Monnie Adams Caine, as well as his eight loving grandchildren, Strickler IV, Glenn, Robin, Sumner, Laura, Winston, Marion, and Elliott. He also leaves behind a sister, many nieces and nephews and 17 first cousins who continue to congregate at the Adam's home place in Beersheba Springs, Tennessee, along with countless numbers of friends all over Alabama.

On behalf of everyone who knew and loved Ma'on, I offer my deepest condolences to his family. Marion Adams lived a truly remarkable life and will always be remembered.

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 5874, the United States Patent and Trademark Office Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2010. This bill will help reduce backlogs in processing patent

applications. I am a proud to have voted with a majority of the House to pass this important piece of legislation.

Processing patents is crucial to the U.S. economy. In order for our nation to thrive in a global economy, it is essential that patent and trademark applications are processed in a timely and efficient manner. Currently, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) can take an average of nearly three years to complete the examination of a patent application and has maintained a backlog of unexamined applications for several years. At this time, there are approximately 1.2 million patent applications in the system with more than 750,000 awaiting review by a USPTO patent examiner. The more time patent applications are waiting to be reviewed, the longer the U.S. goes without an invention that can spur economic growth.

Specifically, H.R. 5874 provides up to \$129 million, fully offset, to help prevent additional backlogs in the processing of patent applications. With this funding, the USPTO will be able to hire additional staff and afford to pay necessary overtime to prevent additional backlogs.

Patents are critical to American innovation and economic growth. An efficient patent examination system will foster innovation and job creation by ensuring that individuals and small businesses have the ability to protect their intellectual property and continue to create new products.

Again, I am a proud supporter of this supplemental appropriations bill for the USPTO. I am proud to have voted with a majority of the House yesterday to pass this vital legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately, I missed the following recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, July 26, 2010.

Had I been present I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 467 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1320), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 468 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 1504), "aye" on rollcall vote No. 469 (on motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 3101).

HONORING VALERIE HENRY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and express sincere gratitude to Valerie Henry, who after 13 years of work on Capitol Hill, including seven years of service to the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District, is departing this institution today to become, as she puts it, full-time CEO of her household as she continues to raise her two wonderful children.

Valerie has become very well-respected in the Congress as a sharp-as-a-tack policy aide in health care, education, taxes, budget issues, and telecommunications. But don't just take my word for it. In 2005, the National Rural Health Association bestowed on her the NRHA Legislative Staff Award in recognition of her ongoing commitments to improving the health care of rural Americans.

Valerie was born and raised just across the Potomac River in Alexandria, Virginia. She learned the value of representative democracy from her mom (Virginia Franco) who served for 30 years as the deputy registrar of voters for the city of Alexandria and oversaw the administration of hundreds of local, State and Federal elections.

After graduating from her beloved Virginia Tech in 1997, she began her career on Capitol Hill as an intern for her home State senator and quintessential statesman, Senator John Warner. That internship eventually translated into a full-time job. She worked for Senator Warner through the historic impeachment proceedings of President Bill Clinton.

While in Senator Warner's office, she also met her future husband, Patrick Henry, who worked for Senator Warner in his committee office. Pat remains a dedicated public servant, serving now as Special Agent in the U.S. Secret Service, and is one heck of a good guy.

In 1999, Valerie joined the staff of Idaho Senator MIKE CRAPO shortly after he was sworn in as United States Senator. It was there, Madam Speaker, that Valerie says she developed her love for policy analysis and an appreciation for the impact that the Federal government has on the lives of individuals.

A brief stint downtown with a health law and lobbying firm confirmed for Valerie that Capitol Hill was where her talents could best be put to use. So in April 2003, Valerie returned to the Hill as a legislative assistant in my Washington, D.C. office, where she faithfully served the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District for the next seven years.

Through those years, Madam Speaker, Valerie provided essential guidance to me on several historic legislative measures, including the Medicare Modernization Act and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

I and my staff celebrated when Valerie and Pat welcomed their first child in 2005—a daughter, Carlson "Carly" Jean Henry, named after Valerie, and again in 2009 when their son, Patrick "Trip" Timothy Henry III, was born. Carly and Trip are great kids, and fortunate to have such loving parents.

Madam Speaker, it is these precious legacies that have lured Valerie away from our beloved House on Capitol Hill to her home in Falls Church, Virginia.

I speak for all of Oregon's Second District, and this historic institution, when I say "thank you" to Valerie Henry for her selfless and valuable service over these years.

Madam Speaker, I will greatly miss Valerie's highly informed counsel and wonderfully infectious personality. And I know the staff will miss the camaraderie that Valerie brought to the office every single day. While we might prefer not to lose her invaluable professional contributions, we are comforted knowing that our friend will never be that far away.

HONORING REAR ADMIRAL LEROY COLLINS, JR.

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rear Admiral Leroy Collins, Jr., who was taken from this world after a tragic accident in South Tampa.

A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Admiral Collins continued to serve our country first on active duty and then in the Naval Reserves for 34 years. He continued his dedication to country as an advocate for veterans' health and economic well being in his role as Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans' Affairs.

At 75, Admiral Collins was still an active member of the community. In addition to maintaining a rigorous athletic schedule, he served on the boards of Tampa General Hospital, Collins Center for Public Policy, S.S. *American Victory*, and the Armed Forces Financial Network.

I know that his wife, children, and grandchildren played an enormous role in his life and brought him great joy. It is with great sympathy that I extend my condolences to his family. I am honored to have known Admiral Collins. He has truly served our community, State, and country well and will be missed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF REV. HAROLD BLACKBURN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay homage to the memory of a much beloved servant of the Lord—and good friend to many in South Alabama—who recently passed away at the age of 93.

For some, a career of nearly two decades working for the phone company would be the foundation of their life, yet for Harold Blackburn, a native of Citronelle, Alabama, it was just a warm-up. He was destined for a higher calling.

After 19 years at South Central Bell, Mr. Blackburn traded his business clothes for the cloth, becoming a minister of the Lord.

For the next 36 years, Reverend Blackburn—or Brother Harold as he was affectionately known—embarked upon a grand journey that took him from the pulpit to the field, first serving as pastor for a number of Southern Baptist churches all across Alabama.

From the church sanctuary, Reverend Blackburn turned his message to outreach, becoming Director of Missions, serving churches in Clarke and Chambers counties for 23 years, and then leading Baldwin County church missions programs for another 13 years.

Reverend Blackburn loved nature and was also an avid hunter. In his retirement years in Silverhill, Alabama, he was well known for his interest in taxidermy.

Without question, this man of incredible faith lived a long and remarkable life with a legacy of dear friends that literally stretches from one end of the state to the other.

In this time of deep personal loss, I offer my condolences to his wife and childhood sweetheart, Miriam, their two daughters, Carol Ann and Deborah Kay, their six grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren.

Make no mistake: he loved his family, his friends, his country and his God, and not necessarily in that order.

Rev. Blackburn's life was an inspiration to everyone he met and his memory will long linger in our hearts. May he rest in peace.

HONORING SOJOURN TO THE PAST ON ITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1058, which honors and praises the Sojourn to the Past organization on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. This resolution recognizes an important educational program that helps students understand the invaluable role of the Civil Rights Movement in our Nation's moral and social development.

I thank Chairman MILLER for his leadership in bringing this measure to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this resolution, Congressman Louis, whose role in the Civil Rights Movement and work as a public servant has made the United States a more tolerant and democratic country.

Madam Speaker, the Civil Rights Movement was a transformative experience for the United States. It helped our Nation grow out of a culture of bigotry, segregation, and oppression, and extend the democratic freedoms promised by our Nation's founders to people that had, for more than two centuries, been deemed second-class citizens. It elevated our moral standing in the world and brought our Nation closer to meeting the ideals set forth in our founding documents.

It is absolutely essential that every high school student in the United States understands the moral gravity and massive historical significance of the Civil Rights Movement. The Sojourn to the Past project helps us achieve this goal. Established in 1999, the Sojourn to the Past project takes high school students on a 10-day excursion along the path of the Civil Rights Movement in the southern United States, engaging them with historical sites and talks with prominent veteran leaders of the movement. The longest running civil rights education program in the United States, the program has conducted 55 sojourns and introduced over 5,000 high school juniors and seniors to the lessons, locations, and leaders of the Civil Rights Movement.

Madam Speaker, the Civil Rights Movement is not only a vital part of our past, but its lessons are instructive in the ongoing efforts to end violence, discrimination, hatred, and inequality in the United States and across the world. The work of the Sojourn to the Past program is extremely commendable. It instills in our future leaders the knowledge and understanding needed to bring continued moral and social progress to our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

IN HONOR OF STEPHEN J. BRAVERMAN'S EIGHTEEN YEARS OF SERVICE FOR THE PUBLIC GOOD OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

HON. STEPHEN F. LYNCH

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. LYNCH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Stephen J. Braverman, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to senior citizens in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and to commend him for eighteen years of service to Hebrew SeniorLife and the Institute for Aging Research.

During his tenure, Steve provided rigorous medical research of new models and standards by which to enhance long-term care for the aging community. Steve has worked to maximize the strength, vigor, and physical well-being, and preserve the cognitive and functional capabilities of senior citizens as they age.

I would also like to acknowledge his continued commitment to developing and managing two of the largest capital campaigns for senior care, housing, and research throughout the country, which enhance the resources for age-related disease and disability. In addition, he has actively sought and secured endowed chairs for research in Quality and Health Care Standards and Aging Brain Research.

Most importantly, Steve has been a consistent leader in his community, and a strong mentor and friend to his colleagues.

Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to take the floor of the House today to join with his family, friends and contemporaries to thank Steve for his remarkable service to the Institute for Aging Research and the people of Massachusetts. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Stephen J. Braverman's efforts and dedicated service to others.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 26, 2010, I was unable to cast my vote in support of the Twenty-first Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act.

I am in support of this legislation and its passage.

CELEBRATING THE 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF FRED AND BETTY WILLIAMS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 65th anniversary of the marriage of Fred and Betty Williams. Fred and Betty embody all that marriage should be: fidelity, loyalty, and a strong bond formed by love. They, and all that they have done to help

their communities throughout their lives, are typical of the hard-working Americans we represent across our great Nation.

I have known Fred and Betty for almost 40 years, beginning when I attended college with their son Larry at Southern Nazarene University. Married in Longview, Texas, on August 30, 1945, they worked for years at Sears—Fred for 33, and Betty for 8, after a career at JC Penney. After retirement, they moved to Carrollton, Texas, where they embarked on an active retirement in politics, as church volunteers, and as donors to those less fortunate than themselves.

Since moving to Carrollton, the Williams' dedication to the town and area has been unmatched. Fred has served two terms as the Denton County Grand Juror and two terms on the Denton County Appraisal Review Board. Additionally, both Betty and Fred have served as polling place election judges and assistants for over a decade throughout north Texas; including Dallas, Carrollton, Denton County, Farmers Branch Independent School District, and Lewisville Independent School District.

Fred and Betty have been involved in the Church of Nazarene for 60 years. Both have taught Sunday School, sang in the choir, worked with children and youth, and held official positions within the church—Fred as church treasurer and Betty as missionary society president. Furthermore, they have helped clean the church for 10 years, and conducted various duties for the benefit of missionaries, pastors, evangelists, and college students.

Fred and Betty embody the best of the American spirit of hard work and dedication to neighbors and community. They have raised three great children in addition to everything else they have done to improve the environment in which they live. It is with recognition of these accomplishments that I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking the Williams for their lifetime of service and congratulating them on 65 years of marriage.

CONGRATULATING COAST GUARD ACADEMY ON 100TH ANNIVERSARY

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Coast Guard Academy on its 100 years of operation in New London, Connecticut and in support of H. Con. Res. 258, sponsored by my friend and colleague, Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut. Congratulations are due to the Commandant, the Superintendent, dedicated staff, cadets and all graduates of this fine U.S. Service Academy.

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy has educated and developed a century of U.S. leaders of character who have led and continue to lead men and women in the Coast Guard's unique role as a multi-mission, maritime military force. I am proud of those Minnesotans from my congressional district who have gone on to become leaders.

The role of the U.S. Coast Guard has grown beyond maritime safety and security. Particularly since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Coast Guard has answered the

call to serve our community, country and fellow citizens through critical service in protection of natural resources, management of maritime traffic, commerce and navigation and our national defense.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to submit this statement in honor of 100 years of excellence at the United States Coast Guard Academy. All Americans are fortunate to benefit from the leadership and service of its graduates.

TRIBUTE TO COMMERCIAL BANK

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of Commercial Bank in West Liberty, Kentucky. Founded in January 1910, Commercial Bank has grown to serve Morgan, Wolfe, Magoffin and Elliott Counties, many of which are located in the 5th congressional district of eastern Kentucky.

The citizens of Morgan County have been served by Commercial Bank's one location in downtown West Liberty since the bank's founding 100 years ago. Like the other locally-owned banks across my district, Commercial Bank has a conservative lending approach that provides stability and security for the community. The bank is owned by 25 local investors in partnership with the employees of the institution.

Commercial Bank is dedicated to the local community and supports numerous activities that make West Liberty and Morgan County such a special place. The bank and its employees have been longtime supporters of civic clubs, youth sports, the local school system, and the annual Morgan County Sorghum Festival.

Commercial Bank is led today by Hank Allen who serves as president and chief executive officer. He is joined on the Board of Directors by a distinguished group of business and civic leaders which include Morris L. Peyton, Howard B. Elam, Jr., Bob Hutchison, Tommy Phipps, Earl May, Jr., Frank Oldfield, Kent Nickell, Robert Henderson, David Osborne, Joe S. Wells, Edward C. Keeton, Jr., William Holbrook, Jerry Murphy, Tommy Hill, Barrett Frederick, Tim Keller, William S. Wells, Robert Wells, Jimmy V. Hill, Proctor Blair, Henry L. Allen, Paul D. Kidd, Stanley Franklin, and Jeff Bailey.

Madam Speaker, the people of West Liberty and Morgan County will gather in early August at West Liberty's Old Mill Park to celebrate Commercial Bank's 100th anniversary. I am proud to serve the people of Morgan County here in Congress and wish to extend congratulations to Commercial Bank on its 100 years of service to West Liberty.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN FRANK ROBERTS (RET.)

HON. GLENN C. NYE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. NYE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Captain Frank Roberts (ret.), a long-

time resident of Virginia Beach and a lifelong public servant, on the occasion of his retirement from the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance.

Frank Roberts is a 1969 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and had a distinguished 27-year active duty career with the U.S. Navy, retiring with rank of Captain. One of only 300 aviators ever to surpass 1000 carrier arrested landings, Frank is a graduate of the "Topgun" Navy Fighter Weapons School and the Naval War College. He has always welcomed professional challenges and never declined an opportunity to serve his country. The list of Frank's active duty assignments is long and many Naval personnel, both uniformed and civilian, count themselves fortunate for the opportunity to have served with, and learned from, Frank Roberts.

Upon his retirement from the U.S. Navy in 1996, Frank was employed by OC, Incorporated and provided military analytical support to the Joint Warfighting Center. From 1997 to 2003, Frank served as the Vice President and Director of Hampton Roads operations for Battlespace, Inc., where he supported joint unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) experimentation at U.S. Joint Forces Command (USJFCOM). From 2003 to 2006, Frank was employed by Old Dominion University Research Foundation and was assigned to USJFCOM to lead the Joint Operational Test Bed System UAV experimentation program focused on transforming intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities.

The Hampton Roads area was fortunate when Frank Roberts stepped in as the first Executive Director of the Hampton Roads Military and Federal Facilities Alliance in 2006. The communities that comprise the Alliance—Chesapeake, Franklin, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Poquoson, Portsmouth, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Williamsburg, Isle of Wight, James City and York—selected Frank to lead the Alliance because of his expertise, his experience, his work ethic, and his dedication. Hampton Roads has played a critical role in America's national and homeland defense for generations. In Frank, the Alliance found an effective and tireless advocate on behalf of the region's unique capabilities and the Commonwealth's contributions to protecting our nation. During a time of great change and uncertainty due in part to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission, Frank's tenure as the head of HRMFFA will be remembered for his steadfast leadership as he navigated the Alliance through choppy waters to calmer seas.

Frank has been buoyed in his professional career by a loving family at home—his wife Joan, his son Jim, his late daughter Andrea and his grandchildren, Reagan and Lucas, have been a source of love and support. On behalf of the Second Congressional District, I would like to thank Frank Roberts and the Roberts family for his many years of public service to Virginia and to our nation. Frank Roberts is someone who answered the call to serve his country, and his service has made a difference. We wish you well, Frank, and hope you know how deeply grateful we are for your contributions.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF RUSSELL T.
VOUGHT

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Russell T. Vought's service to the United States Congress, our nation and the cause of individual liberty.

Russ began his service to the Congress immediately following his graduation from Wheaton College (Illinois) in 1998. After working briefly for retiring Senator Dan Coats, Russ joined the staff of Texas' senior senator and my political mentor, Senator Phil Gramm. During the four years Russ served on Senator Gramm's policy staff, he became a student of legislative procedure and mastered federal budget policy.

Russ joined my staff as Policy Director shortly after I was sworn into office in 2003. He served as my top advisor on budget issues and worked tirelessly to help me develop the Family Budget Protection Act, which was heralded by pro-taxpayer organizations as the "Gold Standard" of budget enforcement legislation. For several years, Russ provided invaluable counsel to me on tax, entitlement and spending policy and worked with me to author three federal fiscal year budgets.

When I was elected Chairman of the Republican Study Committee for the 110th Congress, I asked Russ to become the committee's Executive Director. Russ worked with me and the 100-plus members of the committee with integrity and an unwavering devotion to the conservative principles that we share.

At the beginning of the 111th Congress, my friend Chairman MIKE PENCE asked Russ to serve the House Republican Conference as his Policy Director. In addition to managing the Conference's policy staff, which is the main hub of information and analysis for all Republican House Members and their staff, he serves as its principal advisor on a broad range of issues, specializing in budget, appropriations, Social Security, legislative procedure, and entitlements.

As Russ' work with me and my colleagues comes to a close, I reflect most fondly upon the unpopular and lonely legislative battles that we faced together. As a wise person once said, "True friendship isn't about being there when it's convenient; it's about being there when it's not."

I take heart knowing that Russ's service to the cause of liberty will continue in whichever path he chooses for his life. He personifies the conservative movement and his devotion to the constitutional, limited government principles is second-to-none.

Madam Speaker, I wish my conservative brother and, most importantly, my friend Russ Vought, best wishes for the future.

HONORING THE COMMISSIONING
OF THE USS *MISSOURI*

HON. W. TODD AKIN

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. AKIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the commissioning of the USS

Missouri to take place tomorrow, the 31st of July, and to congratulate the crew of the newest addition to the United States naval fleet.

USS *Missouri* is the nation's newest and most advanced nuclear-powered attack submarine. This vessel was designed to not require refueling during the life of the ship—a feature that will reduce lifecycle costs while increasing underway time.

The *Missouri* is 377 feet long and 34 feet wide, and is capable of traveling in both shallow and deep waters. Specially designed for undersea warfare, she can dive deeper than 800 feet and is capable of operating speeds exceeding 25 knots while submerged.

Weighing 7,800 tons, *Missouri* is a *Virginia*-class submarine engineered to excel in anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare, special operations missions, strike, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, carrier and expeditionary strike group support, and mine warfare missions.

The soon-to-be-commissioned submarine embodies five of the six Navy maritime strategy core capabilities including sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence.

The seventh of the *Virginia*-class of submarines to join the U.S. Navy, the *Missouri* was built under a teaming arrangement by General Dynamics Electric Boat and Northrop Grumman Shipbuilding-Newport News.

She is scheduled to be commissioned on July 31st at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, CT, and will join Submarine Squadron 4 under the leadership of Commander Timothy Rexrode with a crew totalling 134 officers and enlisted personnel.

Following the commissioning of the *Missouri* on Saturday, she will be the fifth Navy ship to bear the name honoring the "Show Me State." The fourth such ship was the famous battleship which served in World War II, the Korean War, and the Persian Gulf War. It was aboard this predecessor of the *Missouri* that the United States and Allied officers, among them Fleet Adm. Chester Nimitz and Gen. Douglas MacArthur, accepted the unconditional surrender of Japanese forces marking the end of World War II on September 2, 1945.

The people of the great state of Missouri are proud to have a fantastic new ship bearing our state's name. It honors our state and the many men and women from Missouri who proudly serve in the United States Armed Forces.

We expect great accomplishments and a life of unwavering loyalty and service from the newest USS *Missouri*. It is with great honor that I welcome the USS *Missouri* to our nation's fleet, the best submarine in the strongest navy in the world.

INTRODUCTION OF A CONCURRENT
RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE
SENSE OF THE CONGRESS ON
THE CLOSURE OF THE MAIN EN-
TRANCE OF THE SUPREME
COURT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a Resolution expressing the

sense of Congress, and, I believe, of the American people, that every American have the opportunity to enter the Supreme Court through its main entrance, as they have been permitted to do since the building first opened.

Our founders vested the Supreme Court with the judicial power of our nation, and gave it the charge to dispense justice. Since 1935, visitors have climbed the marble steps of the Supreme Court and entered the nation's temple of justice through its main entrance, under the words "Equal Justice Under Law." Chief Justice John Roberts, during his confirmation hearing, described the "lump in his throat" that formed every time he walked up those marble steps and through that main entrance.

Millions of Americans and visitors from around the world have stepped through those doors to watch the Court work in openness, and to pay tribute to a nation not of men, but of laws.

On May 3, 2010, Chief Justice Roberts announced that the Supreme Court would no longer allow visitors to enter through the main doors of the Supreme Court, closing the main entrance for the first time in nearly 75 years.

Justice Stephen Breyer, joined by Justice Ginsberg, expressed his concern about the closure, stating, "To many members of the public, this Court's main entrance and front steps are not only a means to, but also a metaphor for, access to the Court itself."

I encourage all of my colleagues to join me in sending a clear message that access to this most vital symbol of transparency and openness should not be restricted.

RECOGNIZING THE BICENTENNIAL
OF SOUTH MIDDLETON TOWN-
SHIP, PENNSYLVANIA

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize South Middleton Township, Pennsylvania on its 200th Birthday.

Established in 1810, South Middleton Township is comprised of approximately 52 square miles and has a population of almost 14,500. A wonderful community in which to live, work, and play, the Township is bordered on the north by Carlisle Borough, North Middleton Township, and Middlesex Township. To the east is Monroe Township and to the south are York and Adams Counties. Dickinson Township borders South Middleton to the west. The Township is predominantly a rural farming community and forested area. Approximately 75 percent of the land is used for farming, forest, or woodland. South Middleton Township was created when the area known as Middleton was divided into North Middleton and South Middleton. The governing body consists of five elected supervisors and an appointed township manager.

Madam Speaker, the observance of the 200th Birthday of South Middleton Township provides a special opportunity to pay tribute to the citizens of the township, past and present, who have contributed immeasurably to the township's wonderful quality of life. South Middleton Township will be celebrating the Bicentennial all summer long with parades, picnics, and events at local venues. Over Memorial

Day the Township had floats accompanied by veterans in both the Boiling Springs and Carlisle Memorial Day parades. Labor Day will conclude the official Bicentennial celebrations and will include a fireworks display. I encourage all of my constituents, whether South Middleton residents or visitors, to attend these gatherings and commemorate the Township's birth. It is with heartfelt wishes that I recognize South Middletown Township on its 200th Birthday.

**BARRY BASICS MODULAR
MEDICAL APPAREL**

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, Lt. Col. Albert Barry, USMC, Retired (1936–2007) served his country honorably for almost a half-century before battling Glioblastoma, an aggressive brain cancer. Al Barry's wish to make patients receiving medical treatment more comfortable during illness recovery is now being carried out by his wife, Liz Taylor-Barry, through the Al Barry Foundation.

The Al Barry Foundation created Barry Basics, a modular medical apparel line, to provide patients with a product that emphasizes convenience, range of motion, and comfort. The medical apparel offers upper and lower body garments that encourage movement with their flexible snap closures and various removable pieces. Barry Basics carries a women's line, men's line, children's line, and a breast cancer line. They also produce almost all apparel in the USA and work with Clemson Apparel Research, CAR.

I know firsthand of her extraordinary compassion because on Wednesday at Bethesda National Naval Medical Center, she visited with Marine Lance Corporal Bradley Christian Fite. Brad is a Wounded Warrior Hero of America and a former Washington staff member of the south congressional district of South Carolina.

Liz Taylor-Barry sends the proceeds from Barry Basics to Wounded Warriors, veterans, and cancer patients.

I want to thank the Barry family and all those involved in the Al Barry Foundation for their selfless contributions in South Carolina and across the globe.

**HONORING LISA KINOSHITA FOR
WINNING THE GREATER TACOMA
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION'S
THIRD ANNUAL FOUNDATION OF
ART AWARD**

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Tacoma artist Lisa Kinoshita for being awarded the 2010 Foundation of Art Award by the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. This impressive achievement speaks to her individual talents, as well as those of the entire art community in the greater Tacoma, Washington region.

The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation has long fostered the arts as a necessary component to a vibrant and successful community. The foundation established the annual Foundation of Art Award to honor professional artists living and creating in Pierce County. The award honors artists' talents and recognizes the community's creative culture.

In addition to being recognized for her work by the Community Foundation, Lisa Kinoshita's art has also been the focus in many widely read publications, including Seattle Magazine, Elle Magazine, and the New York Times. She founded Mineral, an art gallery and studio in Tacoma, which features many works that blend art and fashion through jewelry, visual art, photography, and mixed media.

In addition to the Foundation of Art Award, the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation will commission an original piece of art by Lisa Kinoshita, which will be unveiled in the autumn of 2010.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Lisa Kinoshita on this impressive achievement, and celebrate her talent, creativity, community involvement, and contribution to the arts and culture of the Tacoma community and Washington State.

**TOLEDO FACILITY PROUD TO
SPEARHEAD KRAFT FOODS EF-
FORTS TO DOUBLE WHOLE
GRAIN IN CRACKER PRODUCTS**

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, this week, Kraft Foods announced plans to significantly increase the whole grain content in its leading Nabisco cracker brands, more than doubling the amount of whole grain currently used.

I am privileged to share this announcement which has been made possible through thousands of hours of research and testing, investment in innovation and capital at the company's Toledo Mill. The tireless work of the Toledo Mill employees who make the quality whole grain flours that will be important ingredients in many of these products.

As the largest flour mill in east of the Mississippi and the largest soft wheat mill in North America, the Toledo Mill employs nearly 100 workers who labor tirelessly to produce 3.1 million pounds of flour daily.

Kraft Foods has spent four years and invested millions of dollars in its flour milling technology, recipe development and testing to find ways to add more, whole grain to its popular cracker brands which culminated in a multimillion dollar investment at the Toledo Mill.

The whole grain flours produced in Toledo will double the amount of whole grain in Original Wheat Thins from 11g to 22g per serving; more than triple the amount in Wheat Thins Toasted Chips from 5g to 17g per serving; and quadruple the amount in Honey Maid Original Graham Crackers from 5g to 20g per serving. Whole grain will also be added to Premium and Ritz crackers.

This week's announcement by Kraft highlights a commitment to ensure that by 2013, the company expects Nabisco crackers will contribute more than 9 billion servings of whole grain to American diets each year.

Kraft's commitment comes at a time when the American people and Congress are examining our diets and attempting to address an alarming increase in obesity rates.

The Institute of Medicine has recommended that at least half of the grains we consume should be rich in whole grains and, based on today's announcement, the Toledo mill will serve as a cornerstone in our regions effort to remain the center of a national network feeding our people.

The nutrition benefits of whole grains include fiber, B vitamins, and minerals. Eating whole grains at recommended levels as part of a healthy diet can also help reduce risk of heart disease, may help with weight maintenance and may lower risk for other chronic diseases. Today, most Americans only get about one serving (16g) of whole grain a day, compared with the recommended minimum three servings (at least 48g) per day.

Americans are increasingly conscious of the quality of their diet. They want and deserve healthful products that taste good and are good for them. The men and women who work at the Toledo Mill are proud of this important contribution to increasing the range of healthful products available to all of us.

I offer my heartiest congratulations to Kraft Foods, and my appreciation to Kraft's Toledo Mill employees.

**KRAFT FOODS ANNOUNCES PLANS TO DOUBLE
THE AMOUNT OF WHOLE GRAIN IN NABISCO
CRACKERS**

9 BILLION SERVINGS OF WHOLE GRAIN EXPECTED
ANNUALLY BY 2013

NORTHFIELD, IL (July 26, 2010).—Kraft Foods announced plans today to significantly increase the whole grain content in its leading Nabisco cracker brands, more than doubling the amount of whole grain currently used across the Nabisco portfolio. Over the next three years, some of America's favorite cracker brands, including Wheat Thins, Honey Maid, Premium and Ritz will include more whole grain. By 2013, the company expects Nabisco crackers will contribute more than 9 billion servings of whole grain to American diets each year.

"Nine out of ten Americans eat less than the recommended daily amount of whole grains," said Rhonda Jordan, President, Global Health & Wellness, Kraft Foods. "And a growing number of consumers are trying to increase their consumption of whole grains. By significantly increasing the amount of whole grain in our crackers, we're giving them an easy, delicious way to get the whole grain they need in the foods they already enjoy."

Kraft Foods began to transform its cracker portfolio in August 2009 when it increased the whole grain content of Original and Reduced-Fat Wheat Thins from 5g to 11g per 31g serving. In continuing this effort, the company plans to increase whole grain in more than 100 products over the next three years, including:

Doubling the amount of whole grain in Original Wheat Thins from 11g to 22g per serving;

More than tripling the amount in Wheat Thins Toasted Chips from 5g to 17g per serving;

Quadrupling the amount in Honey Maid Original Graham Crackers from 5g to 20g per serving; and

Adding whole grain to Premium and Ritz crackers.

With these improvements, a number of products, including Original Wheat Thins and Honey Maid Original Graham Crackers, will be made with 100% whole grain.

Most Americans only get about one serving (16g) of whole grain a day, compared with the recommended minimum three servings (at least 48g) per day, which means they could be missing the important nutrition benefits that whole grain offers. Eating a variety of foods to reach the recommended amount of three or more servings of whole grains can help consumers get fiber, B vitamins, and minerals like iron and magnesium.

COMBINING THE GOODNESS OF WHOLE GRAIN
WITH THE TASTE CONSUMERS LOVE

Kraft Foods has spent four years and invested significant resources in its flour milling technology, recipe development and testing to find ways to add more whole grain to its popular cracker brands. The company will be using whole grain wheat flour to increase the whole grain content of these products. Whole grain wheat flour is milled using the entire wheat kernel (bran, endosperm and germ) to offer the benefits of whole grain.

"It was critical for us to get the recipe right to deliver the benefits of whole grain without sacrificing the taste consumers expect from their favorite crackers," said Carlos Abrams Rivera, Vice President for Nabisco crackers. "Just adding whole grain can change a product's flavor and, in the case of crackers, can make them denser and grittier. But the combination of the right recipe and ingredients can help us maintain delicious taste and texture while adding significant levels of whole grain."

ACCELERATING HEALTH AND WELLNESS
EFFORTS

Today's announcement is a continuing demonstration of Kraft Foods' commitment to health and wellness. Earlier this year, the company announced plans to reduce sodium by an average of 10% across its North American portfolio of products, including crackers. And over the past five years, Kraft Foods has reformulated about one in four products in the United States to make them better for consumers.

"We're accelerating our efforts in health and wellness because it's good for consumers and good for business," said Jordan. "Whether it's adding more whole grain, reducing sodium or removing calories from our products, we're making the foods consumers love even better."

ABOUT KRAFT FOODS

With annual revenues of approximately \$48 billion, Kraft Foods is a global powerhouse in snacks, confectionery and quick meals. The company is the world's second largest food company, making delicious products for billions of consumers in more than 160 countries. The portfolio includes 11 iconic brands with revenues exceeding \$1 billion—Oreo, Nabisco and LU biscuits; Milka and Cadbury chocolates; Trident gum; Jacobs and Maxwell House coffees; Philadelphia cream cheeses; Kraft cheeses, dinners and dressings; and Oscar Mayer meats. Approximately 70 brands generate annual revenues of more than \$100 million. Kraft Foods (www.kraftfoodscompany.com; NYSE: KFT) is a member of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, Standard & Poor's 500, Dow Jones Sustainability Index and Ethibel Sustainability Index.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND
COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on H.R. 847—The 9/11 Health and Compensation Act.

There have been few events in our history as traumatic as the attacks our nation suffered on September 11, 2001. The lives of millions of Americans were changed on that day. People in New York were devastated. Yet the incredible response by people all over this great country reminded us of the generous and caring people we Americans are.

Now many of those people who came from every state in the country need our help. They were willing to put their own health at risk to help their neighbors. We now have the opportunity to repay them for their courageous actions.

H.R. 847—the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act will do just that. It will provide critical health monitoring and treatment and compensate these angels of mercy for their economic sacrifices.

We are pleased that this bill is revenue neutral. But we could never place a monetary value on the bravery and service of these heroes. I urge my colleagues in the House to do right by these brave Americans. Passing this bill will be another noble act in our nation's proud heritage.

NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, across the country partnerships built of people, governments, and communities are coming together offering health services to local patients. Health care centers serve 20 million people nationally and improve access to care for millions of Americans. I rise today in support of National Health Center Week and two centers, Three Rivers Community Health Center and Perry County Medical Center, who are celebrating accordingly.

Built by community initiative, health care centers are community-driven and patient-centered. In 23 centers, over 300,000 patients are treated throughout the great state of Tennessee. Regardless of insurance status or ability to pay, patients receive preventative and accessible care when healthcare is needed but scarce. The Three Rivers and Perry County Centers focus on high-need areas identified by elevated poverty, higher than average infant mortality, and few physicians in residence.

By reducing costly emergency, hospital, and specialty care, Community Health Centers save the health care system \$24 billion a year. During National Health Center Week, we celebrate the care offered to the nation's most vulnerable populations. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking the Three Rivers Community Health and Perry County Medical Centers

for providing access to affordable, high quality, and cost-effective health care to the citizens of the 7th District.

H.R. 4173, THE DODD-FRANK WALL
STREET REFORM AND CON-
SUMER PROTECTION ACT CLARI-
FICATION OF INTENT WITH RE-
SPECT TO TITLE V

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, as a House conferee and the chief sponsor of H.R. 2571, the Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act, that was included in the conference report for H.R. 4173, the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, I want to make several important clarifications of intent on the final language. The President signed the Dodd-Frank Act into law last week (P.L. 111-203).

With respect to Sec. 533(5) of the Dodd-Frank Act, the definition of "reinsurer" is not to be construed narrowly, thereby limiting or avoiding the intent of Congress with respect to Title V, Subtitle B, Part II.

Additionally, Sections 531 and 532 of the Dodd-Frank Act entitled "Regulation of Credit for Reinsurance and Reinsurance Agreements" and "Regulation of Reinsurer Solvency", respectively, are also not to be construed narrowly so as to limit or avoid the intent of Congress with respect to Title V, Subtitle B, Part II. Furthermore, the clear intent of Section 532 in the manner it is written and should be understood is that the regulation of reinsurer solvency, pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Act, includes the NAIC Financial Regulation Standards and Accreditation Program's laws and regulations.

Finally, in order to ensure the States are appropriately implementing the Nonadmitted and Reinsurance Reform Act, it is the intent of Congress that the Study and Report on Regulation of Insurance required pursuant to Title V, Subtitle A, Sec. 502 of the Dodd-Frank Act include an evaluation of each State's compliance with Title V, Subtitle B.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, this bill has not improved since the House voted on it earlier this year. This bill spends money on training police in Afghanistan as communities in New Jersey lay off police officers because of budget shortfalls. Our first responsibility to our citizens is to help keep them safe in their homes and their communities. This bill does the opposite: It allocates billions more for a war that cannot be won militarily while allowing our own communities to become much easier targets of crime and violence. Moreover, this bill is paid for by borrowing more money from countries like China, and it violates President

Obama's pledge that the funding for our actions in Iraq and Afghanistan would be done through the usual appropriations process. By passing this unfunded bill, we will be adding tens of billions of dollars in new debt. I cannot support such reckless policy.

Further, the bill does not include funding that is essential to stop massive layoffs among teachers and other public servants we count on. The recession that began in 2008—the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression—has hit our communities hard, forcing school districts to layoff teachers and cut services. Previously, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act made several sound investments in public education to keep teachers in the classroom and help school districts avoid painful cuts.

Most, if not all, of this emergency funding has been spent.

I cannot in good conscience vote for a bill that is so at odds with the most basic of our values, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against it.

RECOGNIZING N. PATRICK RANGE,
SR.

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize and congratulate Mr. N. Patrick Range, Sr., a friend as well as a constituent in my Congressional district and recipient of this year's Robert H. Miller Professional of the Year Award. He will be honored by the National Funeral Directors and Mortician's Association during its 2010 convention in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Mr. Range is the third Floridian nominated for the award, named after Mr. Miller, the first NFDMA executive director. It is because of his outstanding service and commitment that he undoubtedly deserves this great honor for his many years of devotion to the South Florida community.

"He's had a significant role in supporting colleagues and in serving the community in a comparable manner," said Henry Postell, president of the Florida Mortician Association. "Professionalism is there regardless of the families' financial situation."

Mr. Range is the current owner of Range Funeral Homes of Greater Miami, founded in 1953. He has been in the funeral industry as a licensed funeral director and embalmer for over 50 years. He obtained his license in 1965 after matriculating at the New England Institute of Anatomy following the death of his father and founder of Range Funeral Homes, Oscar L. Range, Sr., in 1960.

After obtaining his license, Mr. Range returned to Miami to partner with "my mentor, my guide, my inspiration, my mom," M. Athalie Range, in a relationship that would last 45 years in the family-owned funeral home. After his mother's death in 2006, Mr. Range continued his parents' legacy as the principal of Range Funeral Homes.

A member of the Epsilon Nu Delta Mortuary Fraternity, Mr. Range also serves on the advisory board of the Miami-Dade College Department of Funeral Service Education. An active member in a host of other professional organizations, Mr. Range was most recently recog-

nized by his peers as the "Mortician of the Year" in 2006 by both the First Regional District of Florida and the State of Florida Mortician's Association. He has done an abundant of fundraising work for mortuary science scholarships and career-related organizations, such as 100 Black Women in Funeral Service.

Madam Speaker, Mr. N. Patrick Range, Sr. is an inspiration not only to the South Florida community, but to the nation at large. Morticians provide a service like no other. The care and dedication you provide our loved ones before their homegoing services stay in our hearts and minds forever. Please join me in applauding the achievements of Mr. Range.

EXPLANATION REGARDING SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEES

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I should note that I sometimes submit amendments to committees so that they are available for discussion. I do not necessarily support any amendment drafted by myself and my staff unless I formally offer the amendment. Accordingly, no conclusion can be drawn from the process of simply providing the text of a possible amendment to the clerk of any committee.

HONORING JOSEPH H. HAMILTON

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, to a boy from Louisiana, the building blocks of life are food, faith, and a healthy dose of Southern hospitality. Joseph Hamilton, grew up to learn that our world is not so simple.

By January 2010 Hamilton had played a crucial role in an astounding discovery. He helped find something that no one knew existed. His work was critical in forming a multinational research team, and carrying out the discovery of Element 117—Ununseptium—the newest addition to the Periodic Table of Elements.

Hamilton's life started like that of any southern boy. Born in the humble town of Ferriday, Louisiana, he stayed true to his Baptist upbringing. He attended Christian Mississippi College, where God's calling led him to be a physicist. Hamilton then took his studies to Indiana University, where he studied nuclear physics and the elements. Their tiny atoms and their nuclei are invisible except to a select group of scientists with very advanced equipment. For everyone outside this elite group, the existence of atoms and their nuclei is purely a matter of faith. The only way to observe individual atoms of elements is through their impact on the world.

A skeptic may say that Christianity and physics, the two most important parts of Hamilton's life, cannot coexist, but Hamilton disagrees. He has pursued his passion without abandoning his beliefs, and has found that the

two go gracefully hand in hand. As a professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, he and his wife have coauthored more than twenty papers on the harmony of physics and religion.

Professor Hamilton has dedicated himself to the growth of his students. Recognizing that they will soon take his place in research, Hamilton has supervised over 60 PhD dissertations and over 100 post-doctoral fellows at Vanderbilt. He includes his students in almost everything he does. One of his few regrets in his storied career is that he did not intimately involve his students in the discovery of Element 117.

Hamilton's research career at Vanderbilt over the last fifty-two years has taken him around the world. Russia, China, Sweden, and Germany have been but a few stops on his journeys. The creation of Element 117 in Dubna, Russia, just north of Moscow, was the result of a multinational project that Hamilton helped create. He believes that scientific discovery is a global effort, not a local one. Collaboration is key because science is one of the few things that unite us all in peaceful ways. Scientific principles apply around the world, regardless of race, creed, and nationality.

The first collaborative project that Hamilton initiated, the University Isotope Separator, has been a key operation at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory for more than forty years. This began as a collaboration of 11 South-eastern universities, ORNL and the State of Tennessee. Hamilton is also a founder of the Joint Institute for Heavy Ion Research, a co-operation of Vanderbilt, the University of Tennessee, and Oak Ridge National Laboratory. This Institute has become a world-class scientific resource. Moreover, this Institute opened doors that helped transform ORNL through the development of three major new joint institutes.

By January 2010, Hamilton's critical role in a joint Russian-American project came to fruition in the creation of six atoms of Element 117. While this new radioactive element has a half-life of only 78 milliseconds faster than the blink of an eye—its discovery points towards a fascinating possibility. Its half-life is longer than that of other recently discovered super heavy elements, and suggests that we may be on the path towards finding new, more stable, super heavy elements.

Hamilton and his coworkers' discovery will be forever emblazoned on the walls of chemistry and physics labs worldwide as the newest member of the Periodic Table of Elements. Generations of scientists will discover Element 117's properties, but no matter what is learned about Element 117, this Southern gentleman will always know that his work added to the building blocks of our world.

CONGRATULATING MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT WILLIAMS ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. TODD RUSSELL PLATTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. PLATTS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Major General Robert Williams, 47th Commandant of the United States Army

War College. Just last month, Major General Williams retired after serving our nation admirably for 36 years.

Major General Williams is a highly decorated officer who served in a number of combat and non-combat assignments. His assignments included: Tank Company Commander in the 4th Battalion, 63d Armor at Fort Riley, Kansas; Executive Officer of the 3d Battalion, 67th Armor at Fort Hood, Texas; Assistant Division Commander (Support) for the 1st Infantry Division in Schweinfurt, Germany; Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/Operations, HQ Allied Command Europe, Rapid Reaction Corps, Moenchengladbach, Germany; and Commanding General of the United States Armor Center at Fort Knox, Kentucky. He was also deployed to Baghdad, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as the C3 for CJTF-7.

In January 2008, Major General Williams was assigned as the 47th Commandant of the United States Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. I had the distinct privilege to interact regularly with Major General Williams during his tenure at the War College and witnessed first-hand his exemplary leadership. Major General Williams' candor and passion for the Professional Military Education (PME) system helped to strengthen the critically important mission of the War College and thereby enhance the strategic leadership qualities of the College's graduates.

It is with great admiration that I congratulate Major General Williams on his well-deserved retirement and express my heartfelt gratitude for his patriotic service to our nation. I and all Americans are forever indebted to him.

TRIBUTE TO DR. EVIE GARRETT
DENNIS

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and exceptional accomplishments of Dr. Evie Garrett Dennis. On August 13, 2010, Dr. Dennis will be honored by the dedication of the Evie Garrett Dennis Campus of the Denver Public Schools. Dr. Dennis served as Superintendent of Denver Public Schools from 1990–1994. She was the first and to date the only African American and woman to hold this position.

Dr. Dennis was born on September 9, 1924, in Canton, Mississippi, the eighth of nine children born to Mrs. Ola Brown Garrett and Rev. Eugene Garrett. A graduate of Cameron Street High School, she married in 1950 and her daughter Pia was born in 1951. After earning her bachelor's degree in Biology from St. Louis University, she worked as a research assistant and associate. In 1958, Dr. Dennis and her daughter moved to Denver, Colorado, where she worked as a researcher and specialist in childhood asthma at the Children's Asthma Research Institute and Hospital, the Jewish National Home for Asthmatic Children, and other medical institutions in the area.

In 1966, Dr. Dennis began her tenure with the Denver Public Schools (DPS) as a math teacher. After earning a Master's degree in education from the University of Colorado in 1971, she worked in the DPS administration. In 1974, she successfully implemented and

monitored the U.S. District Court ordered school busing plan. In 1976, she earned a doctorate in education from Nova University. From 1977 to 1989, she served as administrative assistant to the Superintendent of Schools. She was appointed to the position of Deputy Superintendent of DPS in 1989.

In 1990, Dr. Evie Dennis became Superintendent of the DPS. Under her leadership, four innovative educational programs were launched in the district's schools: Expeditionary Learning in partnership with the Upward Bound Program; the Denver School of the Arts; the K–5 International Baccalaureate Program; and the International Studies Program at West High School. She implemented site-based management practices in the system's schools and started the district's educational advisory councils; the Denver Energy, Engineering and Education Program (DEEP); and, the American Israel Student Exchange Program.

Dr. Dennis is also known for the contributions she has made to Denver and the broader world. In 1986 and 1988, Denver Mayor Federico appointed her to the Denver Private Industry Council and the Mayor's Black Advisory Council. In 1994, she received the Nation Builder Award from the National Black Caucus of State Legislators. She received the Russell T. Tutt Award for Excellence in Leadership for Outstanding Leadership in Colorado's non-profit community in 1999 from the El Pomar Foundation.

Dr. Dennis is a multifaceted, dedicated, and talented woman whose contributions to amateur athletics and the International Olympics are recognized internationally. In 1962, she helped to form the Denver All-Stars which became the Mile High Denver Track Club, in order for her daughter to have opportunities to compete in an era before the existence of a girls' high school track program.

The team was a member of the Amateur Athletic Union, which later became the United States Amateur Athletic Union. Dr. Dennis was a member of the Rocky Mountain Association of the Amateur Athletic Union in 1975. In 1978, she was elected the first female vice-president of the national association. Dr. Dennis served USA Track and Field, Inc. for more than four decades in numerous capacities, including as its first acting president. She has served as a member of the board of Trustees for the U.S. Sports Academy and the USA Track and Field, Inc., and delegate to the International Association of Athletics Federations.

She was the first woman vice president of the United States Olympic Organizing Committee (USOOC) and has been involved with every U.S. Olympics team since 1972. She became a manager of the U.S. Women's Track and Field team for the Montreal Olympics in 1976. She served on the United States Olympic Committee's Task Force on Doping and chaired the Women's and Diversity and Leadership committees. She remains a member of the Governing Bodies Council and became a member of the International Olympic Committee in 1992.

In 1977, as a member of the USOOC, she presented the successful motion to move the headquarters from New York to Colorado Springs, Colorado, which was accomplished in 1978. In 1980, she received the Congressional Gold Medal along with the U.S. Olympic Team. She served as Chef de Mission for the

U.S. delegation at the 1998 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul, South Korea. In 1992, she received the Olympic Order for outstanding service to the Olympic cause. In 2004, she was inducted in to the United States Olympic Track and Field Hall of Fame.

Dr. Dennis has authored several papers and articles on public education and childhood asthma. She is a staunch supporter of Title IX, ensuring access to sports for young women. She has been recognized for her many volunteer contributions to various committees, associations, organizations, foundations, and other groups that focus on the advancement of education and the value of sports in our society.

She is a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Dr. Dennis served as president of the Epsilon Nu Omega chapter in Denver and was instrumental in hosting the sorority's national convention in the city in 1972.

Having been inducted into the Colorado Sportswomen Hall of Fame in 1998, Dr. Dennis was then inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 2008 as one who exemplifies the best qualities of the people who have built and sustained Colorado.

Please join me in paying tribute to Dr. Evie Garrett Dennis for her life's work as a distinguished educator, remarkable sportswoman, and global community servant.

IN HONOR OF AND RECOGNITION
OF THE BOLZAN FAMILY'S 6TH
REUNION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of the Bolzan Family's 6th reunion, which will be held in Cleveland, Ohio from July 31 to August 6, 2010 and to acknowledge the family bonds that span generations and continents.

Over 100 descendants of Benvenuto Antonio and Mathilde De Lorenzi Bolzan will gather from around the world in Cleveland, Ohio to celebrate their unbreakable bonds and unwavering support for each other. In a time of widespread use of cell phones, email, and video communication via the internet, it is important to recognize a family that prioritizes in-person interaction with family members.

Of the six original siblings in this family, one remained in Italy while the others emigrated to Argentina, Luxembourg, France, and the United States. As a result, previous family reunions have taken place across Europe, including Italy during World War II, in France, and in Luxembourg. Many family members have chosen to extend their stays to include visits to other locations around the United States. In addition to sharing their fondest memories and exchanging news and other current events, the family has several tours planned during their visit, including those that will showcase Cleveland's cultural and artistic locations. I would like to particularly recognize Robert Milluzzi of Brecksville, Ohio, who is in charge of all of the arrangements for this memorable event.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, please join me in celebrating the Bolzan Family on the occasion of their reunion. May they continue this tradition that celebrates family, love, and commitment to each other for years.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND
DEDICATION OF TED CANTER

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the service and dedication of Ted Canter, a member of my staff who is leaving my office to pursue a law degree at Emory University.

Ted grew up in Maryland and graduated cum laude from Vanderbilt University with a degree in English. After getting his start on the Hill with the office of Senator Tim Johnson, Ted joined my office as a Legislative Correspondent last fall and was soon promoted to Legislative Assistant. Ted was a welcome addition to the office from the start. He handled his legislative work skillfully and was good-natured to professional contacts, constituents and coworkers alike. His unflappably good manners on the phone were renowned among our staff.

As a Legislative Assistant for education, housing, agriculture and other vital domestic issues, Ted has been a valuable resource to me and to constituents with concerns in these areas. He transitioned easily to the position, quickly grasped the intricacies of the issues, and speaks to the legislative process with the confidence of a veteran staffer. Ted's dedication and enthusiasm for the job helped me to advance my legislative priorities and better serve my constituents.

Madam Speaker, I am certain the qualities that made Ted a fine staffer will make him an equally fine fellow lawyer, and I wish him all the best in the future.

STAFF SERGEANT TONY WINTERS

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and a heavy heart that I honor a fallen Son of Texas today. Staff Sergeant Leston Michael Winters—known to his friends and family as Tony—gave his life in Afghanistan in defense of freedom.

Tony was killed July 15th when an IED exploded near his dismounted patrol. Tony was in the Zhari District of the Kandahar Province. The IED is the weapon of cowards who hide in the shadows. These cowards are too afraid to stand and fight.

Staff Sergeant Tony Winters was all American. He graduated from Hardin-Jefferson High School in 1998. He joined the Army and served as a combat medic.

Medic! Medic! Those are the words that ring out when warriors are injured in battle. And it is the rare breed of medical man who runs to their aid in the heat of the battle. Through the dust and sand and heat of the desert sun, the medic in Afghanistan saves lives.

A combat medic is the bravest kind of warrior—running into the battle to aid the fallen soldier.

Tony was safe and snug serving at a state-side hospital in Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. But last Christmas he decided to transfer to a base that would go into combat.

He wanted to serve on the front lines.

Tony knew full well what that decision meant. You see, he had already served three tours overseas, one in Kosovo and two in Iraq.

Tony knew where his skills would be best used fighting the terrorists who attacked America on September 11th. Tony knew the importance of his job to the war effort. He was a saver of lives in the combat arena. An Army combat medic.

General Douglas MacArthur was speaking of real men like Tony when he spoke those immortal words: Duty, honor, country. Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be.

Tony understood duty and personal sacrifice. He went to Afghanistan to save help save the lives of his warrior brothers and sisters.

Tony is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, sons, Remington and Jonathon, daughter Emma, his parents Kenneth and Cheryl Spivey of Sour Lake, Texas, his sister Alisha Martin of Port Arthur, and brother Cory Hunt also of Sour Lake.

Staff Sergeant Tony Winters will be laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery in August.

As the early American poet Joseph Drake said, "And they who for their country die shall fill an honored grave, for glory lights the soldier's tomb, and beauty weeps the brave."

It is my honor to offer a grateful nation's thanks and prayers. We are grateful that a man like Staff Sergeant Tony Winters lived and loved America.

It was once said that what we do for ourselves dies with us—but what we do for the others and the world remains and is immortal. Tony's life was dedicated to saving the lives of others.

All give some in Afghanistan, but Staff Sergeant Tony Winters gave all. He is an American hero.

I offer my heartfelt condolences to Tony's wife and children and to his friends and family.

Today we honor this great American warrior's life and are humbled by his greatest of sacrifices.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING GREENE COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPUTY JON WILLIS

HON. G.K. BUTTERFIELD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to the tragic slaying of a 30-year-old Sheriff's Deputy in my home state of North Carolina.

Greene County Deputy Jon Willis died in the direct line of duty on July 28, 2010 while responding to a domestic disturbance call. During the call, Deputy Willis was shot and killed before the shooter ended his own life.

I have expressed my condolences to Greene County Sheriff Lemmie Smith, and I know that the department and the entire community are shocked and deeply saddened by this tragic event. Flags at the Greene County Courthouse were flown half-staff yesterday as the community paid tribute to Deputy Willis.

The father of two children, Deputy Willis joined the Greene County Sheriffs Office in

December 2001, but left for a job at the Winterville Police Department. He returned to the Greene County Sheriff's Office in April 2009.

Deputy Willis' death marks the second time the Greene County Sheriff's Office has lost a deputy in the line of duty. Deputy Ernest Martin Hull died in a vehicle crash on Jan. 2, 2000.

Deputy Willis is also the second area officer to lose his life in the line of duty in the past 15 months. Lenoir County Deputy Allen Pearson was shot and killed in April 2009 near Grifton, N.C.

On average, a law enforcement officer is killed in America every other day. Since 1792, when recordkeeping started, more than 20,000 officers have lost their lives in service to their communities. And sadly, 101 officers have already been killed in the line of duty across the country this year.

This event reminds us of the mortal dangers that our officers face each day in the line of duty.

Madam Speaker, it is with both sadness and pride that I share with you the death of Deputy Jon Willis. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing his loved ones the strength they require to overcome their loss. God bless Deputy Jon Willis. His bravery, courage, and goodness will never be forgotten by his community or his state.

IDA PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "IDA Protection Act of 2010." This bill will help the Individual Development Account program weather a tough economic climate, so it can continue to help lower income Americans to go to college, buy a home, or start a small business.

IDA accounts are designed to help low income individuals pull themselves out of poverty and learn how to manage their family's finances. Through a partnership between local government, non-profits, and businesses, each dollar someone saves in an IDA account is matched at a one or even two to one ratio.

To participate in this program, an individual must agree to take classes on financial literacy and agree to use the proceeds to buy a home, start a small business, or pay college tuition. Since the program's inception in 1999, more than 86,000 people have opened IDAs, many of them opening bank accounts for the first time. These individuals have sacrificed to save and thus, increased the standard of living for their family.

Unfortunately, the recent recession has threatened the future of this important program. Congress annually appropriates \$24 million for IDA Accounts, and local non-profits must find private sector matches in order to receive a portion of these federal funds. Since Wall Street's meltdown shook our economy, the usual corporate partners have not maintained their traditional level of IDA donations, and as a result much of this \$24 million for this year remains unspent.

This bill would create a bridge for the IDA program to better times. It more than doubles

the program's funding in 2011 and 2012 and waives the private match requirement during those two years. Private participation in the IDA program is important, and this bill is meant in no way to incentivize private business to take its money elsewhere.

The sad reality though, is that private donors just aren't coming through right now. A number of states have eliminated or cut their IDA programs in response to this financial crisis. In California, the United Way of Los Angeles was recently forced to shutter its successful IDA program, and if Congress does not act now, more closures are sure to follow.

Giving these low-income families a chance to pull themselves out of poverty will benefit us all. Their businesses will employ our neighbors; their children will be our doctors and lawyers. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

**JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND
COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010**

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act and believe the House of Representatives should act urgently to pass this must needed piece of legislation.

The United States is engaged around the world in a conflict against violent extremists. The first casualties of that conflict were the police and firefighters who responded that day, the civilians that volunteered in the rescue and recovery efforts, the construction workers who began clearing the site, and the ordinary citizens who lived and worked in that area. It is important that we act to take care of those individuals who were harmed as a result of this attack on our nation. They suffered that day as Americans, and it is right that we, as Americans, ensure they receive the care they need and deserve.

These Americans, not only New Yorkers, but citizens of every state, continue to suffer from serious medical conditions as a result of the attacks and the dangerous air quality in the time that followed. It is imperative that this Congress act to protect those citizens who are suffering as a result of the terrorist attacks on our country.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this effort.

**HONORING HAZEL ROCHELLE
BAYLOR**

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a young lady on her initiative and academic accomplishments. Hazel Rochelle Baylor is to be commended on her efforts to fulfill her dreams of pursuing a career in the field of space and aviation.

A graduate of A. Maceo Smith High School, Hazel will soon begin classes at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University majoring in aerospace engineering and minoring in aviation and business. Facing many challenges early in life, Hazel has not let her past define her future.

Her early interest in aviation was augmented by a meeting with Donald Elder, an original Tuskegee Airman. Mr. Elder inspired Hazel to follow her dreams in this field.

Hazel's desire and personality have driven her success. During an aviation presentation with the NJROTC program, Hazel met Mr. Monte Ford of American Airlines. He was so impressed with her enthusiasm that it led to an internship with American Airlines.

Hazel has many role models in aviation, but cites her strongest inspiration has come from Donald Elder, and astronaut, Dr. Mae Jamison. Hazel wants to follow into the footsteps of her idol Dr. Jamison and not just be a pilot but to become an astronaut as well.

I commend Hazel on all of her work and wish her the best on what I know will be a successful future.

**HONORING KIM EBERT-COLELLA
FOR RECEIVING THE 2010 GREAT-
ER TACOMA PEACE PRIZE**

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kim Ebert-Colella for promoting peace and understanding in her local and global communities.

On the evening of May 22, Ms. Ebert-Colella received the 2010 Greater Tacoma Peace Prize at Pacific Lutheran University for her life long commitment toward peace and the wellbeing of others.

The Tacoma News Tribune has called Ms. Ebert-Colella a "walking, working proof of what kindness can mean." Following the Catholic teachings of social justice, Ms. Ebert-Colella joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps after graduating from the College of St. Benedict. Over the next few years, she served in the L'Arche communities working with developmentally disabled people. When she turned 30, Ms. Ebert-Colella decided to volunteer at the L'Arche home in Calcutta where she worked directly under Mother Teresa. After her return to the United States, she worked as a youth minister at St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Gig Harbor, married Niko Colella, and had their son, Sam Colella, who attends Bryant Montessori School.

Ms. Ebert-Colella followed her son to Bryant Montessori where she is a volunteer adviser for the school's Peace Committee, which encourages philanthropy and awareness of indigent areas of the world, and provides students a chance to work toward peace in their daily lives while they revitalize their local communities.

Under Ms. Ebert-Colella's leadership, students from Bryant Montessori School choose an annual theme to implement projects dedicated to peace. For example, during the 2009-2010 school year, students decided to focus on water. Under Ebert-Colella's oversight, students raised money to buy four rain barrels to collect water to use on the school's

garden. They also have a goal of raising \$6,000 to give a clean water system to Las Maratos, a small town in Bolivia.

Ms. Ebert-Colella motivates students to complete philanthropic projects and fundraisers, which have since become known as peace projects. Through these peace projects, Ms. Ebert-Colella emphasizes the importance of working toward peace while living peacefully in one's everyday life. The Peace Committee also instituted a kindness campaign at the Bryant Montessori School in which the students report and recognize other students for doing kind and selfless acts.

Ms. Ebert-Colella has led several other philanthropic projects such as designating the school as an international peace site and organizing a Disco for Peace dance, which raised over \$9,000 to build a school in Pakistan.

The Greater Tacoma Peace Prize was created as a gift to the from the Norwegian-American community to the people of the region in 2005 on the 100th year anniversary of Norway's peaceful separation from Sweden. The prize is award to an individual, group, or organization each year to recognize, honor, and encourage peace building, education, and awareness in the Tacoma community and beyond. Ms. Ebert-Colella has made an impression on several people in the region by working for good and touching the lives of numerous families and individuals.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives please join me in congratulating Kim Ebert-Colella and her outstanding work to promote peaceful understandings throughout the Tacoma community and throughout the world.

HONORING PAT PLUMMER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Pat Plummer upon his retirement as the Varsity Head Football Coach of Hoover High School in Fresno, California and his induction into the Hoover Hall of Fame. Coach Plummer will be inducted into the Hoover Hall Fame on Saturday, July 31, 2010.

Coach Pat Plummer was born in Glendale, California. At a young age, his family moved to northern California, where he graduated from Del Oro High School. Upon graduating from high school, Coach Plummer attended Sierra Junior College in Rocklin, California. In 1970, he transferred to California State University, Fresno, on a football scholarship. In 1972, Coach Plummer was named to the All-Pacific Coast Athletic Association team as an offensive guard. Coach Plummer graduated from CSU Fresno with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Physical Education and a minor in Geography; in 1974, he earned a teaching credential.

Upon obtaining his credential, Coach Plummer began teaching and coaching football at Tulare Western Union High School in Tulare, California. He was the defensive coordinator for two years before being named the head varsity coach. Coach Plummer remained at Tulare Western for eight years. In 1985, he

was offered the position of Head Varsity Football Coach at Hoover High School. Since taking that job, Coach Plummer has compiled a record of 132 wins, 116 losses and 3 ties. He led his teams to six Fresno City Championships (1987, 1988, 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994) and two North Yosemite League Championships (1997 and 1999).

In 2005 and 2006, Coach Plummer took a hiatus from coaching varsity football so that he and his wife, Micki, would have more time to watch his son, Shawn, play varsity football at a rival school. For those two years, Coach Plummer was the head freshman football coach at Hoover. In 2007, Coach Plummer returned to the Head Varsity Coach position. In his 25 years as the head varsity coach, he has coached several All-Star games including the Tulare-Kings All Star Game in 1985, the Fresno City-County All-Star game in 1989, 1993, and 1999, and the North-South All-Star game in 2003 and 2007.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Pat Plummer upon his retirement from Hoover High School and induction into the Hoover Hall of Fame. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Coach Plummer many years of continued success.

NASHVILLE RISING CONCERT

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today and ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing those artists and actors who recently participated in "Nashville Rising: A Benefit Concert for Flood Recovery" to aide those affected by the catastrophic flooding in Tennessee.

Just a few months ago, historic flooding—a 1,000 year flood—affected 46 counties in Tennessee. The flood waters left damaged homes and hearts. With rain-soaked hands, volunteers offered what they could, and Tennessee lived up to its name as the Volunteer State. I want to thank the many who supported Tennessee's flood relief efforts.

Led by Faith Hill and Tim McGraw, artists—Amy Grant, Billy Ray Cyrus, Blake Shelton, Carrie Underwood, Jason Aldean, Julie Roberts, LeAnn Rimes, Luke Bryan, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Martina McBride, Michael W. Smith, Miley Cyrus, Miranda Lambert, Montgomery Gentry, Taylor Swift, Toby Keith, and ZZ Top—performed, and with messages from Reese Witherspoon, Matthew McConaughey, Craig Ferguson, and Dolly Parton—all joined together to help raise over \$2.2 million for flood relief efforts.

Music has the hope to heal what the flooding left behind. I ask my colleagues to stand with me in thanking those who offered their time and talents to the Nashville Rising Concert, and all who have helped their neighbors during this time of need.

HONORING WILSON COUNTY MAYOR ROBERT DEDMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert Dedman, who is retiring after twelve years of service as Wilson County Mayor and a lifetime of public service.

A lifelong resident of Lebanon, Tennessee, Bob served a tour of duty with the Army in the 1950s, followed by a time with the American Legion. After serving his country, he served his community as Lebanon's Purchasing Agent in 1972. He went on to join the Tennessee Secretary of State's Personal Property and Inventory Division until 1984, when he successfully ran for Wilson County Property Assessor. After deciding not to seek re-election to the office, he spent a term with the 100th General Assembly as Senate Sergeant-At-Arms.

In 1998, Bob was elected Wilson County Mayor, and during his time in office, Wilson County has become the fastest growing county in the state. For twelve years, he has been a dedicated servant to the people of Wilson County. He has always been true to his promise to listen to the people he serves, accessible and welcoming to county residents.

Recently, Progressive Farmer magazine ranked Wilson County as one of the top ten "Most Livable Small Communities." This accolade is in large part due to Bob's leadership and the collective vision of the Wilson County Commission, over which he has presided.

For decades, Bob has been committed to his community. He has served on the boards of the Four Lakes Development District, Greater Nashville Regional Council of Governments, University Medical Center, and the Regional Transportation Authority. This list of memberships is only a small sample of Bob's commitment to his community.

Thank you, Bob, for a job well done. I hope you enjoy a long and happy retirement with your wife Lois, your children and grandchildren.

HONORING THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, as one of more than twenty Eagle Scouts serving in Congress, I would like to honor the Boy Scouts of America and welcome them to our nation's Capitol to celebrate 100 years of excellence.

Over the past 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America have positively impacted millions of young men, not only providing them with knowledge of the outdoors, but building character and leadership traits that serves them, their communities, and their nation.

This week over 46,000 Boy Scouts, leaders, staff and volunteers from around the world are attending the 2010 National Scout Jamboree

at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. Many of these Scouts visited our nation's capital and participated in the Boy Scouts of America Grand Centennial Parade held this past weekend on the National Mall. I had the privilege of attending the Jamboree in 1973, and it was the height of my Scouting career.

On Tuesday I had the privilege of meeting with Troop 67 from Mesquite and Troop 339 from Forney along with many others from the 5th Congressional District who are participating in this year's events and continuing the tradition of Scouting. I am pleased to see that after 100 years, the Boy Scouts of America continues to educate and prepare young men with such success. Their visit lifted me up, and gave me great hope for our nation's future.

Scouting is an important part of the American character because it teaches countless young men about service to their community, patriotism, dedication, hard work, and reverence to God. In addition to teaching good citizenship, Scouting builds leadership skills by teaching self-reliance, setting goals and "learning by doing." Scouts know to "Be Prepared."

Since 1910 the Boy Scouts of America have served over 114 million of our nation's youth, including many of the members of this body. Currently there are 211 Members of Congress who have been involved in Scouting as a youth, earned rank of Eagle Scout, or participated as adult volunteer. I am proud to be one of the 22 Eagle Scouts currently serving in this body.

For me, Scouting was great fun. Scouting is about wonderful memories and a love of the outdoors. It is about useful knowledge that still comes in handy today. But far more important than those, to me Scouting is a way of life. Although I did not realize it at the time, everything a young man needs to know about life he learns in Boy Scouts. It is contained within the Scout Oath and the 12 Points of the Scout Law. So Scouting is not just an achievement of a destination, it is a way of life. If young men will allow Scouting to be their moral compass, it will guide them successfully through the hazards, temptations and pitfalls of life. We should all celebrate Scouting and recognize its great value to our nation.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to be an Eagle Scout. On behalf of the Fifth District of Texas, I thank the Boy Scouts of America for 100 years of devotion to service, leadership, and citizenship.

AIRLINE SAFETY AND FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION EX- TENSION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with certain provisions of H.R. 5900, the Airline Safety and FAA Extension Act.

While I strongly support the goals of the airline safety portions of the bill, I continue to have concerns regarding the practical effect of the provision requiring a minimum of 1,500 hours of training for an airline transport pilot certificate. As we work to improve the safety

of airline service it is important that new training requirements have their desired effect of improving safety while avoiding any unintended consequences that may decrease the number of skilled pilots.

Specifically it is my concern that students looking to get their pilots license could be forced by financial considerations to attend pilot training programs with an emphasis of meeting the flight hour requirements inexpensively by flying straight and level courses without mastering important safety skills.

I support provisions that specify that certain academic training courses can be credited towards the total number of flight hours required by this Act. I believe that this language should be further improved through the normal legislative process to ensure that high-quality outcome orientated training programs are given more credit towards this requirement than other programs.

While I will be voting in favor of this legislation in order to ensure that funding for Federal Aviation Administration, FAA programs that support aviation operations in North Dakota do not lapse, I believe it is important that new safety requirements are appropriately constructed to recognize the tremendous benefits that our nation's accredited flight schools provide.

ASSISTANCE, QUALITY, AND AFFORDABILITY ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Chairman WAXMAN and Chairman MARKKEY, and their capable staffs, for working with my office over the past year to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to avoid a repeat of the outrageous abuse of the public trust that left many of my constituents in Crestwood, IL, without clean drinking water for over 20 years.

In 1986, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was alerted that Village of Crestwood officials were piping in contaminated drinking water to its citizens.

Despite warnings from the state agency to end this illegal practice, incredibly, it took another 20 years, and a personal investigation from a courageous and determined private citizen, my constituent, Tricia Krause, before the state finally went back out to inspect the water supply and found that contaminated water was still being used. Twenty years!!!

Mr. Speaker, my amendment to H.R. 5320, which was adopted unanimously in committee, will compel the U.S. EPA to issue a final rule, within 12 months, requiring public water systems and states agencies to submit all compliance monitoring data electronically.

This will allow the U.S. EPA to update their systems to gather accurate and timely data collection so they are able to act more quickly and effectively against violations, especially when the public's health is in jeopardy.

This bill will also require U.S. EPA to categorize any violations of federal drinking standards and determine what types of follow-up inspections are needed, as well as the frequency of inspections the state will need to carry out, depending on the risk to public health.

By enacting this bill, as Representatives of the people, we will be able to better ensure that all citizens have access to clean, safe drinking water, and that the outrageous acts that resulted in the toxic contamination of Crestwood drinking water are never repeated.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BILL SIGNING OF MEDICARE AND MEDICAID LEGISLATION

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to speak on acknowledgement of the 45th Anniversary of the signing of the Medicare and Medicaid legislation.

In 1965, the United States Congress made a commitment to our nation's most vulnerable citizens when it passed into law legislation that created Medicare and Medicaid as part of the Social Security Act. We as a nation decided that the elderly, poor children, the blind, and the disabled would never be denied proper medical care because of their inability to pay. When President Lyndon Johnson signed the bill and made it law on July 30, 1965, millions of elderly and poor people were spared needless worry and suffering. It was one of our nation's finest moments. We displayed the compassion and will that makes this country great. Access to adequate health care is a right not a privilege.

Please join me today in commemoration of the 45th anniversary of the bill signing for Medicare and Medicaid.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, we all agree that those who heroically responded to the 9/11 terrorist attacks should get the treatment, compensation, and liability protection they need. The American people are grateful to those the ground zero workers and the emergency responders that worked heroically, day and night, for months in rescue, recovery and cleanup efforts at the World Trade Center site. Unfortunately, the approach this bill takes to accomplish these goals is unreasonable and irresponsible.

During committee hearings on reenacting the 9/11 Fund, I expressed the view that if the fund is reenacted, it must be done in a manner that properly compensates the victims while at the same time protecting the taxpayers.

First, I asserted that if the Fund is reenacted it must provide adequate compensation to the victims without handing the keys to the U.S. Treasury to trial lawyers. Unfortunately, this bill does not contain these protections. Rather, the bill allows trial lawyers to request com-

pensation from the fund for work that is not directly related to their clients' recovery from the fund.

Second, I stated that if the Fund is reenacted it must include provisions that will protect the U.S. taxpayers. However, instead of protecting the taxpayers, this bill abdicates Congress' legislative authority to the unreviewable and virtually unbounded discretion of the Special Master.

Third, I counseled that if the Fund is reenacted it should be for a reasonable, but limited, period of time. Once again the authors of this legislation did not listen to my advice; rather, they propose to keep the fund open for 21 years despite congressional testimony by Special Master Ken Feinberg that "no latent claims need such an extended date."

Finally, I suggested that if the fund is reenacted it should be paid for. Apparently, the bill's authors listened to me on this count, but unfortunately, rather than choosing a pay-for that protects U.S. taxpayers, they have chosen one that will actually cost American jobs.

We could be considering a reasonable consensus proposal to reenact the 9/11 Fund today. Instead, I have to urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation because not only does it fail to protect the taxpayers, but it also fails to ensure that those REAL victims that answered the call of duty on September 11, 2001, will actually get the care that they deserve. Unfortunately, we have brought a bill to the floor today that will cost American jobs and creates gimmicks to hide the bill's true cost.

The taxpayers and those who responded to the 9/11 attacks deserve better.

HONORING CHIEF JUDGE DANNY DAVIS FOR HIS TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. HEATH SHULER

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SHULER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Chief Judge Danny Davis for his twenty six years of service as the Chief District Court Judge of the 30th Judicial District in Western North Carolina. During his thirty one years of experience in the courtroom Judge Davis distinguished himself as a superior legal mind, as well as a patient, restrained, and fair jurist.

In the eyes of Judge Davis, an effective judge must listen to both sides of an argument and form a sound legal opinion based on fact, while also maintaining a courteous and respectful demeanor. Holding true to his words, Judge Davis is best known for his fairness and sound reasoning.

Judge Davis has always strived to improve society, leaving his community better than he found it. Throughout his career, Davis has exemplified the highest standard of legal excellence, maintaining the strongest sense of character while reaching a consensus.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Judge Davis on his retirement. He has exemplified real leadership in his ability to ensure that the utmost fairness is in our nation's judicial system. It is truly an honor to recognize him for his many years of service and dedication to Western North Carolina, and I urge my colleagues to support this remarkable jurist.

REVITALIZING CITIES AND TOWNS BY BRINGING BUSINESS BACK

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. KIRK. Madam Speaker, today I introduce a bill to help our commercial neighborhoods to recover the economic activity they have lost during the Great Recession. When the economy tumbled and unemployment rose to the highest level seen in a generation, businesses were forced to close their doors, transforming once-thriving commercial streets into quiet avenues with "For Rent" signs.

My bill encourages private investors to develop land and vacant properties that have had no substantial economic activity for at least two years by exempting them from taxes for up to ten years.

Proper tax incentives can ignite an economic renaissance in our cities and towns by nurturing private investment and enterprise. This is the best government stimulus I know.

CONGRATULATING THE JEFFERSON DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF FLUSHING ON THEIR 100TH ANNI- VERSARY

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing, Inc. Representing Part A of the 26th Assembly District of New York, the Jefferson Democratic Club has fiercely and tirelessly advocated on every level for the interests of the Queens and greater New York City communities.

Speaker Tip O'Neil once observed that "all politics is local." Organizations like the Jefferson Democratic Club are local politics' driving force. Without the hard work, enthusiasm, and dedication of the men and women of political organizations like the Jefferson Democratic Club, the gears of our democracy would grind to a halt.

Founded on June 14th, 1910 during the Republican Administration of William Howard Taft, the Jefferson Dems have been championing democratic values at the grassroots level for generations. Serving the areas of Auburndale, Bay Terrace, Bayside, Douglaston, Floral Park, Flushing, Little Neck, New Hyde Park, North Shore Towers, and Whitestone, they are a staple of the community and an invaluable asset to the people they represent. In recent years, the Club has participated in annual gift drives benefiting hospitalized war veterans; toy and clothing drives to assist hospitalized and needy children and the children of troops currently serving overseas; and many other important community programs.

I am proud to recognize such a prestigious organization and congratulate current District Leaders Joseph Bechtold and Ann-Margaret Carrozza; incoming District Leaders, Michael Sais and Carol Gresser; President, David Fisher; and all the members of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing for their one hun-

dred years of service to the people of Queens County, New York City, and New York State. I hope to see the good work continue for one hundred more. I ask that my colleagues in the House to join me and rise in recognition of the Jefferson Democratic Club of Flushing's centennial anniversary.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF CEIL STEINBERG

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, we rise today to honor the life and memory of an extraordinary member of our South Florida community.

Ceil Steinberg passed away this week at the age of 82, leaving behind a legacy of service and strength.

Throughout Ceil's remarkable life, she maintained a steadfast commitment to serving our Nation's veterans. She served as President of the Ladies National Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans, and continued to be active in our local veterans community into her 80s.

Ceil's two wonderful daughters, Circuit Court Judge Debra Nelson and her sister Anita Kahn, who has taught in South Florida public schools for over 30 years, blessed their mom with 4 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, who Ceil adored.

When we think of public service, we think of Ceil, and her determination to give back, especially to those who have served our Nation in uniform.

We want to express our deep personal condolences to all of Ceil's family, and her beloved partner Bill Kling, who is also a fixture in our local veterans' community.

We will miss seeing Ceil, but the light of her legacy will continue to burn brightly well into the future.

JAMES ZADROGA 9/11 HEALTH AND COMPENSATION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 847, the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act of 2009, which amends the Public Health Service Act to extend and improve protections and services to individuals directly impacted by the terrorist attack in New York City on September 11, 2001. The effects of H.R. 847 will be twofold: it will mandate funding to establish the World Trade Center Health Programs, and it will reopen the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. Both provisions are necessary to sufficiently care for the health and economic welfare of the Americans who were victims of the September 11 attacks and who responded in the aftermath of the attacks. This act guarantees America's heroes—who have sacrificed so much for our country—the medical and financial support they deserve.

As we approach the ninth anniversary of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC), it is especially important that Congress remember that there are survivors of and responders to the attacks who continue to suffer today. These victims may experience a long-term negative impact on their health many years into the future. For the first seven years after September 11, the Bush administration failed to respond adequately to the medical emergency caused by dangerous airborne toxins at Ground Zero. Americans from every state and every walk of life have been affected by those toxins, and over 71,000 people have enrolled in the WTC Health Registry because of their condition. Toxin-related illnesses include respiratory, gastrointestinal, and mental-health disease. Additionally, these illnesses have caused financial loss for many survivors and responders, 11,000 of whom have sued the City of New York because they have no viable alternative for receiving compensation. H.R. 847 will deal thoroughly and effectively with each of these problems.

Title I of H.R. 847 provides mandatory funding for the establishment of the World Trade Center Health Programs. These programs will provide consistent and readily available medical treatment for the September 11 survivors and those who responded in the aftermath of the attacks, many of whom suffer egregiously from the airborne toxins present at Ground Zero. H.R. 847 will also strengthen the medical monitoring and treatment programs and other social services programs for survivors already in place at the Clinical Centers of Excellence in New York City. Title I goes on to establish a WTC National Responder Program, which will give eligible survivors and responders who live outside of the New York City metro area access to a nationwide network of healthcare providers associated with the 9/11 Health and Compensation Act. Additionally, Title I provides for research into health problems related to the September 11 attacks, so that legislators, doctors, survivors, and responders can be better informed about the nature of these conditions.

Title II of H.R. 847 will reopen the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), which closed in 2003, until 2031. The original deadline prevented survivors and responders who did not file a claim before the deadline, or who became ill after the deadline, to receive compensation for losses sustained as a result of the attacks. Reopening the fund will not change eligibility standards for compensation; rather, doing so will ensure that anyone eligible for compensation at any point receives the best care and support possible. The newly reopened VCF will also allow for the offsetting of over 11,000 lawsuits filed by survivors and responders suffering from the effects of WTC toxins.

Title III of the bill ensures that its \$7.7 billion cost is fully paid for by preventing a form of tax evasion called "treaty shopping." This makes the bill pay-as-you-go neutral, and thus amenable to Congress' goals of intelligent spending and fiscal responsibility.

The attacks on the World Trade Center irrevocably changed the lives of all Americans. As a result, we see the world from a markedly different perspective, and we have entered two expensive and bloody wars. The number of lives lost in Iraq and Afghanistan, added to the toll taken by the attacks themselves, is a devastating tragedy. But, with the passage of

this bill, we can stop any more victims of the September 11 attacks from dying or continuing to suffer. We must be able to look back on our legislative record and say that we assured justice to the heroes of 9/11, who stood on the front lines as America came under siege.

I urge my colleagues to support this important resolution.

100,000 HOMES CAMPAIGN AND
THANKING COMMON GROUND
AND PINE STREET INN FOR
THEIR EFFORTS ON THIS INITIATIVE

HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the "100,000 Homes Campaign", an effort to address homelessness in America by providing permanent shelter for 100,000 homeless persons over the next three years. In Boston, the Pine Street Inn, a non-profit organization in my district that has been fighting homelessness for over 40 years, is acting as the lead local agency for this national initiative. Rosanne Haggerty, President and Founder of the New York based nonprofit Common Ground, launched the campaign in Washington, D.C. on July 12th at the Annual Conference of the National Alliance to End Homelessness. So far 34 communities have signed on to participate. In just the short time since the campaign's start, over 5,000 people nationwide have received housing assistance.

The Pine Street Inn was founded in 1969 and provides low-cost permanent housing for homeless individuals. The organization also assists over 10,000 homeless individuals annually by offering emergency shelter, food and health care related services. Mental health and substance abuse counseling are also available through the Pine Street Inn.

Too many Americans are struggling with homelessness and this initiative will help reduce the ranks of the homeless throughout the country. I commend the Pine Street Inn and Common Ground for their tireless efforts and their compassion. Their combined work and the efforts of so many dedicated organizations throughout the country will help make the "100,000 Homes Campaign" a success.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, the American people want to know: where are the jobs?

I do not understand why the Obama Administration and Congressional Democrats have pursued jobs-killing policies such as a government take-over of health care, a national energy tax, a financial regulatory bill that enshrines us as a bailout nation; and are doing nothing to stop the largest tax increase in American history scheduled for the end of this year. These policies have injected uncertainty into the economy, causing nearly \$2 trillion in private capital to stay on the sidelines.

We just learned this morning that in the 2nd quarter this year, GDP grew at 2.4%. While this is better than no growth, it is down from the 3.7% in the first quarter. This recovery defies conventional wisdom, which is the deeper the recession, the stronger the recovery.

The Obama Administration and Washington Democrats have declared their stimulus bill and other economic policies a success. However, the American people have declared them a failure.

RECOGNIZING CLENET INTERNATIONAL, LLC FOR RECEIVING THE MINORITY GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY FIRM OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. PETER J. ROSKAM

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate CleNET International, LLC for being selected by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Business Development Agency to receive the Minority Global Technology Firm of the Year Award.

Headquartered in Oakbrook, Illinois, CleNET Technologies is one of the top technical service providers in the area of globally sourced consulting, software development, testing and system integration. They have become a leading global delivery partner with clients from all over the world.

This particular award was created to recognize minority entrepreneurs who have exemplified leadership in their industry, success as a business and who have had a positive impact on their communities.

CleNET has played an integral role in creating jobs and sustaining the local economy. I would like to recognize the admirable work of owners Jeff Fang and Michael Yuan who have built this business to be as successful as it is today, employing over 1,100 people worldwide.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, please join me on this special occasion in paying tribute to CleNET International, LLC for their superior achievements.

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY MEETINGS IN LATVIA AND BILATERAL VISIT TO MONTE-NEGRO

HON. JOHN S. TANNER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, from May 28–June 3, I led a House delegation to NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NATO PA) meetings in Riga, Latvia, and to additional bilateral meetings in Podgorica, Montenegro. The U.S. delegation to the NATO PA had a highly successful trip during which we examined a range of political, economic, and security issues currently confronting the Alliance, as well as NATO and U.S. policy in Montenegro and the Western Balkans.

The NATO Parliamentary Assembly consists of members of parliament from the 28 NATO

states, as well as members of parliament from candidate state Macedonia (or Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, FYROM), and other associated states such as Russia, Georgia, and Ukraine. I currently have the honor of serving as President of the Assembly. In this capacity, I preside over meetings during which delegates discuss and debate a range of issues of importance to the Alliance. During the NATO PA's two annual plenary sessions, delegates also have the opportunity to listen to presentations by specialists on NATO affairs and to offer guidance to NATO leadership in Brussels. An additional element of the meetings is the opportunity to meet and develop relationships with members of parliament who play important foreign policy roles in their own countries. These responsibilities can include setting defense budgets and determining the operational restrictions placed on deployed forces. Some of the acquaintances made through the NATO PA can last the duration of a career, and are invaluable for gaining insight into developments in allied states.

Discussions during the NATO PA's annual spring meeting focused on the key issues currently facing the Alliance. These include: the drafting of a new Strategic Concept for NATO; NATO's ongoing stabilization mission in Afghanistan; NATO's evolving relations with Russia; and the effects of the global economic downturn on national security and allied commitments to NATO. More specific issues such as the Alliance's nuclear weapons posture, missile defense, and emerging security challenges such as piracy and cyber and energy security were also discussed by the delegates.

At NATO's 60th anniversary summit in April 2009, the leaders of NATO's 28 member states tasked the NATO Secretary General with producing a new Strategic Concept for the Alliance. The re-writing of the Strategic Concept, which was last updated in 1999, offers NATO a chance to lay out a clarified vision of its role in the 21st century security environment. Heads of state from the NATO member states are expected to approve a new Strategic Concept at their November 2010 summit in Lisbon. In April 2010, NATO PA representatives presented NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen with the Assembly's recommendations for a new Strategic Concept. There is broad agreement within the NATO PA that the new Strategic Concept should re-affirm NATO's primary role as a military alliance devoted to ensuring the collective defense and security of its members. In this regard, Article 5 of NATO's founding North Atlantic Treaty—which states that an attack on one is an attack on all—remains NATO's core principle. Our delegation emphasized that in the face of new and emerging security challenges, the Alliance must also continue to broaden the traditional Cold War concept of collective defense to include security threats such as terrorism, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyber-security, and energy security. In this regard, territorial defense can no longer be separated from "out-of-area" security concerns. Members of our delegation also highlighted the importance of developing and maintaining the capabilities necessary to achieve NATO's stated objectives.

The key issue facing the Alliance continues to be NATO's effort to bring security and stability to Afghanistan. Approximately 120,000 troops from 46 countries currently serve in NATO's International Security Assistance

Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, with NATO members providing the core of the force. Close to 80,000 U.S. troops are under ISAF command. NATO allies have generally welcomed the renewed U.S. focus on Afghanistan and have voiced their support of the Administration's new strategy in the region and the associated U.S. troop increases. In April, NATO Foreign Ministers reiterated previous commitments to shift ISAF's emphasis toward transferring responsibility in the country—first and foremost in the security sector—to the Afghan government. Our delegation made an effort to urge our counterparts from NATO parliaments to continue to support ISAF and to contribute the forces and resources necessary to stabilize Afghanistan. Our delegation also emphasized that success in Afghanistan will depend on more than just military efforts, and called on the Alliance to develop a more comprehensive political strategy for the region.

Since NATO-Russia relations reached a low point in the wake of the August 2008 Russia-Georgia conflict, NATO and Russia have sought to improve ties and boost cooperation. Meetings of the NATO-Russia Council resumed in mid-2009 but while cooperation in some areas has resumed, disagreement persists on some issues. Officials from some member states within the Alliance express concern that NATO has not taken a strong enough stance against assertive Russian behavior. Others have attempted to view Russia as a "strategic partner" and call for more pragmatic cooperation and engagement. Our delegation contributed to a number of forceful discussions, including with our Russian counterparts, on the future of NATO-Russia relations. We emphasized that NATO should by no means recognize Russian spheres of influence outside Russian territory or tolerate Russian behavior that threatens the territorial integrity of independent nations. At the same time, we pointed out the importance of developing a unified approach toward Russia within the framework of a broader Alliance policy toward the east.

During the four-day NATO PA session, our delegation participated in day-long meetings of the Assembly's five committees, in a meeting of the NATO-Russia Parliamentary Committee, and in a final plenary session attended by NATO Secretary General Rasmussen. During each NATO PA committee meeting, members of parliament from NATO member states present reports on a range of issues confronting the Alliance. Committee members discuss and debate the issues raised by the reports and are given the opportunity to make counter-arguments or recommend that amendments be made to the reports. Members of the U.S. delegation were present and active participants in all committee meetings.

The NATO PA's Political Committee received three interesting and informative presentations from government officials and outside experts, as well as presentations from members of parliament on three committee reports. Alvis Ronis, Latvia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave an engaging briefing on Latvia's foreign and security policy priorities. Despite facing a severe economic downturn that has forced sharp budget cuts, Latvia remains committed to NATO operations, including in Afghanistan, where it has deployed 170 troops. The committee also heard from U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Alexander Vershbow, who shared a

U.S. perspective on lessons learned from the NATO mission in Afghanistan. A third presentation, given by Alain Déléroz, Vice President of the International Crisis Group, focused on Central Asia and current U.S., European, Chinese, and Russian policy in the region. The three committee reports presented included a report on security in the Persian Gulf region and on the Arabian peninsula written by our colleague, Rep. MIKE ROSS. Unfortunately, Mr. ROSS was unable to attend the meeting. Italian Senator Sergio Di Gregorio graciously agreed to present Mr. Ross's report, which was well received by the committee. Other reports debated by the Political Committee included a report on Alliance cohesion and a report on NATO's relations with so-called "Contact Countries," countries outside the Euro-Atlantic region that are not formal NATO partners.

Members of the Science and Technology Committee heard presentations from a former Latvian president and a senior political advisor at NATO headquarters and debated issues raised in three committee reports. Former Latvian President Vaira Vike-Freiberga shared valuable insights on the Baltic states' relations with Russia. Michael Ruehle, Senior Political Advisor in the NATO Secretary General's Policy Planning Unit, gave a comprehensive assessment of efforts to strengthen the global nuclear non-proliferation regime. The most discussed of the three committee reports presented during the session was Rep. DAVID SCOTT's report entitled, "Nuclear/WMD proliferation and Missile Defense: Forging a New Partnership with Russia." Rep. SCOTT gave a lively and forceful presentation on this timely subject, outlining a broad range of perspectives on NATO, U.S., and European cooperation with Russia on non-proliferation issues, including efforts to counter Iran's nuclear program, and on missile defense. Additional discussions during the committee meeting centered on possible security challenges posed by climate change and on the appropriate role for NATO in energy security issues.

The NATO PA's Defense and Security Committee discussed a range of security issues facing the Alliance, including NATO's engagement in Afghanistan and the role of non-strategic nuclear weapons in maintaining Alliance security. On Afghanistan, delegates heard sobering accounts of ongoing NATO efforts to develop and partner with the Afghan National Security Forces, and on measuring success in Afghanistan. During subsequent debate, delegates reaffirmed the importance of the mission in Afghanistan but acknowledged the significant challenges the Alliance is facing. In response to a report on U.S./NATO non-strategic nuclear weapons in Europe, Rep. DAVID SCOTT made a well-received intervention emphasizing that any decision on the Alliance's nuclear weapons posture must be made by the Alliance as a whole. Rep. SCOTT highlighted the vital role that non-strategic nuclear weapons have played in affirming the allied commitment to collective defense and invited continued talks with Russia on global nuclear non-proliferation efforts.

The meeting of the Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security focused on several issues of increasing importance to Alliance security, chief among them the role of governance and regional politics in ensuring long-term stability in Afghanistan. Delegates debated a committee report outlining a range of

governance challenges in Afghanistan and agreed that the Afghan mission's success will hinge largely on the success of international efforts to improve Afghan governance. Additional reports presented to the committee focused on NATO's role in maritime security and on achievements and future prospects in the Western Balkans. On the Balkans, delegates emphasized the importance of outlining paths to eventual NATO membership for the countries of the region, but agreed that significant progress must be made before membership becomes a reality.

Members of the NATO PA's Economics and Security Committee discussed various aspects of the global financial crisis and the associated global economic downturn. This included an in-depth presentation by the Governor of the Bank of Latvia on the Latvian economy and an assessment of the Greek financial crisis and its global implications by a professor from the London School of Economics. The reports presented by committee members focused on the impact of the financial crisis on Central and Eastern Europe, the impact of the global recession on the developing world, and a possible long-term shift in global economic power.

On Monday, May 31, our delegation participated in a meeting of the NATO-Russia Parliamentary Committee. As President of the NATO PA, I chaired this meeting, which consists of members of the NATO PA's Standing Committee and members of the Russian parliament. The committee heard candid and insightful presentations on NATO-Russia relations from Professor Alexei Pushkov, Director of the Institute of Contemporary International Studies at the Diplomatic Academy of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and from Alexander Vershbow, U.S. Assistant Secretary of Defense and former U.S. Ambassador to Russia. Arguing that "all military alliances are directed against something or somebody," Professor Pushkov asserted that the Russian government continues to view NATO's possible enlargement eastward as a security threat. Despite continued disagreement between NATO and Russia on this and some other core issues, Professor Pushkov maintained that the two sides can minimize the points of contention in their relationship by enhancing cooperation in areas ranging from counter-narcotics trafficking and counterterrorism to maritime security and nuclear non-proliferation. Assistant Secretary Vershbow expressed concern that the Russian government continues to view NATO as a security threat but reiterated the Obama Administration's fundamental commitment to enhancing NATO-Russia ties. He emphasized that NATO and Russia have common interests and could each benefit from cooperation on many of today's most serious global challenges. As Monday was Memorial Day, the delegation visited Riga's Brethren Cemetery to commemorate Latvian soldiers who were killed during the First World War and Latvia's war of independence with Russia.

On Tuesday, June 1, I chaired the closing plenary session of the NATO PA meeting. During the session, the Assembly had the opportunity to hear from NATO Secretary General Rasmussen, Latvian Prime Minister Valdis Dombrovskis, Afghan Defense Minister Abdul Rahim Wardack, the Commander of Allied Joint Force Command, General Egon Ramms, and the Speaker of the Latvian parliament, Gundars Daudze. Secretary General Rasmussen used his address to the Assembly to

outline some key principles for NATO's new Strategic Concept and to urge delegates to remain committed to the mission in Afghanistan. On the new Strategic Concept, Secretary General Rasmussen emphasized the importance of adopting a document that explains in clear terms how the Alliance is enhancing security in the 21st century. He argued that NATO must remain committed to deterrence and collective defense, that the Alliance must cooperate with non-NATO member states such as Russia, and that NATO's approach to security must be comprehensive and must complement actions taken by other international organizations such as the European Union and the United Nations. The Secretary General added that in order to realize the strategic goals agreed by the Alliance, NATO headquarters must function efficiently and that NATO member states must develop more flexible and deployable military forces and capabilities.

In sum, Madam Speaker, the 2010 spring session of the NATO Parliamentary session in Riga, Latvia was a great success. As President of the Assembly, I took pride in the deliberations and the informed engagement of the delegates from all NATO member states and our associate and observer members. For Members of the House and Senate interested in reading the committee reports or transcripts of the presentations mentioned in this statement, they are available on the NATO PA website at www.nato-pa.int. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Ambassador to Latvia, Judith Garber, and her staff for the excellent job they did assisting the delegation during our stay in Riga.

On Tuesday, June 1, after the conclusion of the NATO PA meeting, our delegation travelled to Podgorica, Montenegro, on the invitation of Montenegrin Prime Minister Milo Djukanović. Since achieving its independence in 2006, Montenegro's key foreign policy goals have been European Union (EU) and NATO integration. Montenegro has moved quickly to advance its NATO membership candidacy and in December 2009, the Alliance invited Montenegro to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP), a critical step on the road to possible NATO membership. The United States strongly supported Montenegro's effort to gain independence from Serbia and continues to support its efforts to gain membership in NATO and the European Union. During one-and-a-half days of meetings in Montenegro, our delegation observed first hand the steps being taken by the Montenegrin government to advance its NATO membership prospects and to ensure that membership will lead to a stronger Alliance and enhance stability in the Western Balkan region. We also took the opportunity to urge the Montenegrin leadership to continue to advance reforms in the area of democratic governance, to combat corruption, and to enhance the rule of law in the country.

Over the course of our visit, the delegation met with numerous Montenegrin government officials, including Prime Minister Djukanović and President Filip Vujanović, and had the opportunity to observe Montenegrin troops as they trained in preparation for upcoming deployment to Afghanistan. We were also fortunate to meet with representatives of non-governmental organizations and media outlets, including several outspoken critics of the current Montenegrin government. Shortly after our arrival in Podgorica, we received a comprehensive briefing on U.S.-Montenegrin relations

from our Ambassador to Montenegro, Roderick Moore, and his excellent staff. Ambassador Moore highlighted the record of strong U.S. support for Montenegro and emphasized the work he and his staff are currently doing to enhance democratic governance in the country. Our meetings with Prime Minister Djukanović, President Vujanović, Foreign Minister Milan Rocen, and Speaker of the Montenegrin Parliament Ranko Krivokapić focused primarily on the country's prospects for NATO and EU membership and on the government's democratic reform efforts, particularly in the rule of law area. The Montenegrin leadership stressed the importance of Euro-Atlantic integration not only for the country but for the Western Balkan region. Each of our interlocutors believes strongly that NATO and EU integration represent the best hope to bring lasting peace and stability to the region.

Our delegation also had the opportunity to observe first hand the advances being made by the Montenegrin armed forces. Since gaining independence, Montenegro has had to create a military virtually from the ground up. The size and capabilities of the Montenegrin armed forces remain limited, but the government has made some notable strides in modernizing the military and creating more deployable units. Our delegation was especially impressed to learn of Montenegro's contribution to NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. In March of this year, Montenegro deployed a 31-man infantry unit and a medical team to Afghanistan. One of the highlights of our trip was being able to meet with Montenegrin soldiers preparing to deploy to Afghanistan and to express to them our sincere appreciation for their efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of Ambassador Roderick Moore and his staff, who went out of their way to organize an excellent visit for the delegation. The embassy team in Podgorica deserves high praise for the work they have done advancing U.S. policy in Montenegro and the Western Balkan region. As always, members of the United States military also contributed greatly to the success of this NATO PA trip. The logistics of such a trip, compressed into a tight time frame, are complicated and require lengthy and detailed preparation. Our military escorts were from the Air Force Legislative Liaison Office and the aircrew was from the 201st Airlift Squadron at Joint Base Andrews, MD. They did an outstanding job and I thank them for their hard work and dedication to duty.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES R. LEAMAN

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize James R. Leaman, retiring President of the Virginia AFL-CIO, for his leadership and service to union members and working families across the Commonwealth.

Throughout his distinguished career, Jim Leaman has strived to protect the health, safe-

ty, and quality of life for all of Virginia's workers. Whether they were white collar or blue collar, industrial or agricultural, public sector or private sector workers, Jim Leaman fought for them all.

Jim Leaman dedicated his life to ensuring Virginia's working men and women received a fair wage, had access to affordable health care, and worked in a safe environment.

He carried the banner of Virginia's working families to the halls of Virginia's General Assembly, the U.S. Congress, to the counties, cities and towns of the Commonwealth, and within Virginia's Democratic Party.

Throughout his many years of service to the AFL-CIO and Virginia's workers, Jim Leaman never wavered from his principles. He was, and is, a steadfast advocate for fairness, equality, and justice for all Virginians.

Jim Leaman was a true public policy advocate. Along with his work to protect the interests of Virginia workers, he also pushed broader issues that affected the lives of all Virginians, such as opposition to the usurious rates charged by payday lenders to those who could least afford such costs.

As a result of his efforts and leadership on non-partisan voter registration campaigns, thousands of Virginians became voters and participated in our democratic process.

Prior to his four-year tenure as President, Jim Leaman served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Virginia AFL-CIO from 1990 to his election as President in 2006. He was a proud 35-year member of the Communications Workers of America and is currently a member of the Iron Workers. Jim has advised several Virginia governors and other elected leaders and has served on boards and commissions dealing with labor and employment issues in the Commonwealth.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in acknowledging the accomplishments and distinguished career of my friend and one of Virginia's great labor leaders, Jim Leaman. I thank him for his service and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LATE CARL HAYNES, PAST PRESIDENT OF TEAMSTERS LOCAL 237

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the late Carl Haynes, former President of the Teamsters Local 237 City Employees Union, former Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, and beloved husband and father. A lifelong advocate for working men and women, Mr. Haynes passed away in April.

Carl Haynes was born Carroll Edwin Haynes in West Virginia on June 2, 1933, the second of three children. He attended West Virginia State College and married his sweetheart Janice in the campus chapel two days after graduation. The newlyweds moved to New York City to begin a long and fruitful life together.

Haynes began working in the city's youth services industry in 1956 at Youth House in the Bronx. In 1960, he assumed a position as a Housing Assistant in the New York City

Housing Authority (NYCHA). In 1967, as chairman of the 600-member housing assistants' local union chapter, he mobilized his co-workers in a strike against NYCHA for better pay and working conditions. The three-day job action led to the agreement by NYCHA officials to the strikers' demands. Haynes later spoke proudly of his role in the strike, the only one in NYCHA's long history. In 1968, Haynes joined the Teamsters' Union Local 237 staff full-time as a business agent and was subsequently promoted to Assistant Director and later Director of the Housing Division. He became a Trustee in 1978, was elected Vice President in 1983, and ascended to the presidency in 1993, succeeding Barry Feinstein. For 14 years, Haynes proved a dynamic leader guided above all by a "members first" philosophy. After truly leaving his mark on the organization, Haynes stepped down as President in 2007 and oversaw the smooth transition of his successor, his friend and colleague Gregory Floyd.

Carl Haynes continued to serve as a Vice President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters while heading its Public Employees Division until 2009. He sat on the executive boards of the New York State AFL-CIO, the New York City Central Labor Council, and the Municipal Labor Committee, and served as national AFL-CIO Vice President and on the boards of directors of Emblem Health Care System and United Way of New York City. He was a beloved leader adored by his members and admired by all who worked with him.

In memorializing Haynes, Gregory Floyd recalled his "calm demeanor in the face of adversity and his patience at the negotiating table. When it looked like there was no hope in sight, he kept a positive outlook. . . He was a kind and giving man who dedicated his career to helping working men and women." Teamsters national President, Jim Hoffa, said of him, "Under Carl's leadership, the Public Services Division grew tremendously and we are grateful for his dedicated service to our union."

Carl Haynes is survived by his wife, Janice; a son, Jay, of San Antonio; a daughter, Liane, of Los Angeles; and three grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, in recognition of his decades of service to the labor movement and to our nation, I request that my distinguished colleagues join me in paying tribute to Carl Haynes, a proven leader who dedicated his life in service to others.

HONORING PAT BELLAMY

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Pat Bellamy. Patrick Bellamy was the Chairman of the Houston Ship Channel also served as a member of the Houston-Harris County Homeland Security Advisory Council and is the retiring Director of the Southwest Public Safety Technology Center at the University of Houston (SWRC). In these roles Mr. Bellamy planned with federal, state and local government entities relative to Homeland Security and related issues.

Mr. Bellamy has been involved with government, information technology, communications

infrastructure deployment and first response for over forty years and has completed AAS, BS and MA degrees. Prior to his retirement from what is now AT&T, Mr. Bellamy was Regional Vice President and Executive Director responsible for Technology Planning, Market Development, Technical Sales/Support, Program Management and Technology Certifications/Assurance.

In his various roles, Mr. Bellamy has deployed a variety of "firsts" as part of planning the St. Louis, San Antonio, Tulsa, Houston, Paris, Chilean and other complex networking and defense systems. He was also involved in a variety of government and industry emergency response teams and in the development of related process-oriented efforts. Mr. Bellamy's organizations also coordinated the implementation and ongoing management of complex technologies for international, national and other industry systems. Similarly, his organization coordinated sensitive government-oriented systems plus implementations for the Economic Summit (G7), the Republican National Convention and other strategic events. He also wrote the technology planning document for the 2012 Olympic Game effort.

While a member of the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Bellamy was educated at Chanute AFB as an electrical-electronics engineer and assisted in the planning, design, implementation, testing, first response and maintenance of guidance and control systems, nuclear payloads, addressing systems, networking systems, first response systems and other functions associated with the strategic Minuteman Inter-continental Ballistic Missile defense system.

Among his community involvement efforts, Patrick Bellamy was the Founder of the UH Cullen College of Engineering's Houston InfoComm Technology Initiative and co-Founder of the Houston Area Technology Advancement Center. Similarly, Mr. Bellamy has been a board member of the Houston READ Commission and has also served as the Chairman of the Executive Board for the Gulf Coast Alliance for Minorities in Engineering. Mr. Bellamy currently serves on a number of public/private advisory boards. Along these lines, Mr. Bellamy played a leading role in the creation and development of the Houston Ship Channel Security of District. And, with the assistance of HSC2, local governments, the Houston Ship Channel Security District Board, Houston Ship Channel Industry Participants (including EHCMA), HSC2, the Port of Houston Authority, the USCG and other key players, led the transition process associated with the evolution of this "first-of-its-kind" key Homeland Security-oriented effort.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate my long time friend, Pat Bellamy.

HONORING FREDERIK E. VAZQUEZ

SPEECH OF

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the service and mourn the death of Marine Lance Corporal Frederik E. Vazquez, of Melrose Park, IL. He was killed Saturday in Helmand Province in

Afghanistan while supporting combat operations. He was just 20 years old.

Erik to his family and Freddy to his friends, Frederik Vazquez was born in Los Angeles, spent his childhood in Northlake and moved to Melrose Park just a few years ago, where he attended Proviso West High School before graduating from West Leyden in 2008.

Erik had wanted to be a Marine since childhood, and enlisted following graduation. His parents remembered a quiet young man who returned from Marine boot camp more reflective and responsible, with an eye toward college after the Marines. I join with those who knew Erik best in mourning the life he lost, and that which could have been.

I extend my heartfelt condolences to Erik's friends, family, and everyone who will miss this young Marine. On behalf of this Congress and the 5th District of Illinois I thank him for his bravery. His country will never forget his service.

WYONNA JUDD

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, the Music City family is known the world over for reaching out and helping up. One of our shining stars, five time GRAMMY award winning artist Wynonna Judd will be awarded the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award for her countless contributions to the Nashville community, and to future generations who wish to pursue a career in the music industry. I rise with friends, artists, and fellow musicians who are gathered to celebrate the many contributions of Wynonna Judd.

I rise also today to thank all those who offer their devotion to the Cecil Scaife Music Business Scholarship. The Cecil Scaife Business Scholarship Endowment provides for an educational scholarship. Named for Arkansas native Cecil Scaife, the award honors Scaife's love of the music industry and his vision to see the formation of an educational program to produce successful musicians, artists, and music business leaders. Working with the great artists of our collective legacy, Charlie Rich, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash, Scaife pioneered the way for future legends of the music business.

Calling Nashville home in 1979, Wynonna continues to leave an indelible mark on the Middle Tennessee community, as well as causes around the world. Devoted to a wide range of needs from children in crisis, to the United Way, and to the men and women who defend our precious freedom, Wynonna participates in assisting over 100 charities per year.

Following consistently her instincts, Wynonna sings the songs of the familiar, the comfortable and the faithful. Her inspirations come from rock, her passions from blues, and her notes from great men and women of music. Her idol list reads like the who's who of the music business. Seven studio albums later, she is still making opposing musical choices the binding notes of her story. Like the icons of country past, Wynonna has not been afraid to shy from the controversial, leading us all to higher growth.

Wynonna's successes are vast: holding multiple gold, platinum, and multi-platinum certificates from RIAA, took her place on the New York Times bestseller list, written with John Rich, covered Elvis, sang for Lilo and Stich, and having seen her notes executed with perfection by figure skating champion Brian Boitano. Awards and causes too many to mention, but championed all with great strength, this Top Female Vocalist of the Year crafts her art with the grace of a prophet and the resilience of a saint. I ask my colleagues to join with me in celebrating Wynonna Judd on receiving the Cecil Scaife Visionary Award as she continues to bring the best of hope to all who listen and dream.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL
DOUGLAS BURNETT

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Florida Air National Guard Major General Douglas Burnett. General Burnett's hard work helped rise through the ranks over the years earning a number of awards over his illustrious career.

Retiring from the Air Force, General Burnett capped his 47 years and 4 month long career as Florida's Adjutant General. Taking the position in November 3, 2001, General Burnett was the first Air Guard officer to preside over Florida's 12,000 member National Guard.

In his opening remarks that November, General Burnett stated, "Let us, as we respond to the national crisis before our nation, seize this opportunity to re-calibrate our priorities and realize that freedom is the common bond among America's diverse culture . . . something that must always be protected . . . something that those who come to America's shores value highest."

General Burnett presided over the Florida National Guard's response to some of region's most severe natural disasters. A record four hurricanes in one year hit Florida in 2004, including Hurricanes Charley, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne. The following year, General Burnett led the response to Hurricanes Dennis, Wilma, and Katrina. More recently, he set in motion the Florida National Guard's part of bringing aid to earthquake stricken Haiti. After his long years of service, General Burnett earned the respect and admiration from the military and civilian side in efforts to make Florida the best National Guard state in the nation.

The leadership General Burnett demonstrated in these responses was forged over a long career of impressive accomplishments. General Burnett has received the Legion of Merit award with one oak leaf cluster. General Burnett has also received the Air Force Commendation Medal, the Air Force Achievement Medal, and the Combat Readiness Medal with two oak leaf clusters. The Air Force began commending this award in 1958. Locally, he has received the Florida Cross, the Florida Distinguished Service Medal and the Florida Commendation Medal.

Such a noteworthy career began in his hometown of Jacksonville, Florida. After spending some time in military service, he

then went on to graduate from the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor's of Science in Business Administration. After many years in the service, General Burnett later capped off his education by completing work at the Command and General Staff College and the Air War College.

After high school, General Burnett began his military career at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and Kessler Air Force Base in Mississippi under the Florida Air National Guard. He then started what became a lifelong flying career in 1969 by enrolling in the Undergraduate Pilot Training program at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. Earning dual qualifications in military and transport aircraft, he took his first assignment as an Alert Pilot in the North American Aerospace Defense Command.

General Burnett also flew commercially for Pan America World Airways and United Airlines until 1996. During his extensive time as a military and commercial pilot, he logged over 20,000 flying hours over 22 years in the F-102, F-106, C-26, C-131, C-13011, Boeing 727, and McDonnell-Douglas DC-10.

General Burnett served on a number of posts. He was the Chairman of the National Guard Bureau's Domestic Operations Advisory Board. He sat on the Reserve Forces Policy Board and is actively involved with the National Guard Association of the United States where he previously served two terms on the Executive Council. He was elected the President of the National Guard Officers Association of Florida in 1993. Finally, General Burnett also served on the Florida Council of 100.

On behalf of the 12th Congressional District and all of Florida, I want to thank General Burnett for his long years of service as a proud member of the Florida Air National Guard. I congratulate him on his successful completion of a 47 years career with the Florida Air National Guard and wish him well in his retirement.

HONORING U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVIST ADAM TOREM AS THE
2010 HOWARD O. SCOTT CITIZEN-SOLDIER OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor U.S. Air Force Reservist Adam Torem, whom the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce has honored as the 2010 Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Mr. Torem for this commendable recognition.

Madam Speaker, the Air Force Reserves of the United States Armed Forces have long played an important role in the defense of our country. Originally conceived as a standby force for emergencies, the U.S. Air Force Reserves has been a Major Command of the United States Air Force since 1997. The 67,000-member force has evolved into the Air Force's Wingman, performing the same missions as the Air Force and working side-by-side on the same equipment.

Currently, thousands of reservists are risking their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, and

their service should be acknowledged with gratitude and immense respect. In many instances, Air Force Reservists maintain full-time professional positions while serving their country as active citizen-soldiers. It is laudable when reservists' contribute to their communities further through additional volunteerism and public service. Unfortunately, reservists' contributions to their communities are often overlooked.

Adam Torem, a U.S. Air Force reservist from University Place, Washington, has successfully balanced his career, his commitment to the Air Force Reserves, and considerable community service. His admirable community involvements have included mentoring young people at his synagogue and coaching young, future engineers in the FIRST LEGO League Challenge.

In addition to his work in shaping future generations, Mr. Torem advocates for service men and women in his community. As a former Chair to the Washington State Bar Association's Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Section, Mr. Torem volunteers for programs that provide free legal advice and counseling on housing and other issues to other members of the Reserve and National Guard. Mr. Torem also uses his experience as an attorney to assist in state legislation, advocating for Washington State's active duty service members. When not on military duty, Mr. Torem serves as an Administrative Law Judge for the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission.

The 2010 Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year award was presented in partnership by the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce's Military Affairs Committee and the Kiwanis Club of Tacoma.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Adam Torem on his many remarkable achievements, his venerable service to his country and community, and the recognition of his many efforts as the 2010 Howard O. Scott Citizen-Soldier of the Year.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5850) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for other purposes:

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support the Latham Amendment to the Transportation, Housing & Urban Development Appropriations bill. I support this amendment in lieu of the very similar amendment I sponsored to cut unnecessary and duplicative programs in an effort to save taxpayer dollars.

As the economy begins its recovery, it is critical that we begin to get our fiscal house in order. Our nation's deficit grows larger every day; our national debt now tops \$13 trillion.

Earlier this year, I stood before you and called for serious and smart reductions in spending.

I committed to opposing any spending that would not lead to at least a one percent total cut in the budget, excluding entitlements such as Medicare, veterans' pensions, and Social Security. According to last year's budget numbers, a cut of this size would save approximately \$12 billion in just one year.

Going above and beyond that promise, and frustrated with the current approach to deficit spending, I joined three of my house colleagues in introducing 4 bills, each highlighting specific programmatic cuts that together would save \$70 billion over the next ten years.

While small, across the board, percentage cuts on spending bills as many of my colleagues in the House support is one way to begin to reduce our overall spending, I believe that now is the time to bring specific ideas to the table. This prospect is not easy, and must be done carefully and thoughtfully.

To that end, I joined with a group of colleagues similarly committed to cutting spending and drafted an amendment that would have put in place a number of these types of cuts. However, it became clear that my amendment did not have the support it needed to pass. The Majority party was unwilling to make the tough choices to cut spending, and the Minority party refused to support an amendment offered by the opposite party.

The intent of the Latham Amendment mirrors the intent Peters Amendment. The cuts in this amendment are also in the spirit of the recommendations set forth by the Administration. In his budget proposal, the President worked with the Secretaries of each federal agency to determine which programs work and which programs don't work. They worked to determine which programs need more funding to reach their intended goal, and which programs must be reorganized and even in some cases terminated because they are ineffective or duplicative.

We must listen to our cabinet secretaries, those with the most acute knowledge of the inner workings of their agencies, and fund their programmatic needs while cutting funding for programs that they deem either ineffective or complete in achieving their intended purpose.

Cutting budgets is never easy. Vulnerable people who need assistance depend on our help. Forward-thinking investment is critical to long-term prosperity. Of particular importance to me are housing programs—programs that I have dedicated a significant portion of my career to improving and creating. I support these programs in principle and am committed to ensuring their functions remain fulfilled. However, in these situations where duplicate, inefficient, and nonexistent programs are still receiving funding, we must take action and make cuts, both to protect taxpayer dollars and to protect the populations these programs are intended to serve. I am also acutely aware of the struggles of those in the transportation industry, especially in Connecticut, where the unemployment rate continues to grow. I intend to continue to look for ways to spur job creation while bringing down our federal deficit.

The federal budgeting process should reflect an effort to make cuts where alternative programs—public or private—could work better; make investments in areas, like education and infrastructure, that will fuel future prosperity;

and change programs where efficiencies can be achieved.

The amendment I supported today maintains those priorities while helping put our country on a path toward fiscal sustainability.

INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE BLACK BARBERSHOP HEALTH OUTREACH PROGRAM'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL FIGHT AGAINST HEALTH DISPARITIES

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution that recognizes the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program, a unique initiative that seeks to improve health outcomes in black communities across the country through education, community involvement, research, and culturally relevant strategies.

African American men are especially vulnerable to the impacts of racial health disparities, with the lowest average life expectancy of any group in the United States. Due to various factors, including inadequate access to quality health care services, African American men suffer from disproportionately high rates of hypertension, diabetes, and other health conditions that are largely preventable and manageable. While a lack of trust, culture, and access to routine primary care has prevented many black men from significantly benefiting from interventions and treatments for these conditions, black-owned barbershops have served as cultural institutions in the black community for generations and provide health advocates with an opportunity to empower and educate black men about their health in a trusted and familiar space.

In 2007, the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program was launched by the Diabetic Amputation Prevention Foundation in an effort to increase public awareness about cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and hypertension among black men. By partnering with black-owned barbershops, as well as local leaders, facilities, and organizations, the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program provides culturally specific education and health services to black men. These include screening for hypertension and diabetes; disseminating information on early detection, management, and prevention; conducting research; and referring men to facilities that can address additional health and medical needs.

Since its founding, the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program has expanded its initial focus on hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease to include prostate cancer, and continues to build upon its success. To date, it has screened over 10,000 men in 230 black-owned barbershops for diabetes, hypertension, and prostate cancer across the country. The project's organizers plan to screen 20,000 men in 2010 and 500,000 men by 2012. Furthermore, the Black Barbershop Health Program will also target black-owned beauty shops to reach black women, and take a holistic approach to diagnosing, preventing, and managing cardiovascular disease, hypertension, and diabetes in the black community.

My resolution commends the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program for its valuable contribution to community health and the national fight against racial health disparities. In addition, my resolution expresses a commitment to supporting organizations, programs, and initiatives like the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program that empower individuals to become informed health advocates in their communities.

Madam Speaker, culturally competent health education and delivery methods are essential to preventing and combating racial health disparities, and to maximizing the effectiveness of interventions and treatments that seek to achieve and support better health at the community level. I commend the Black Barbershop Health Outreach Program for the important work it does and remain committed to supporting community-oriented approaches to health reform in health legislation and initiatives arising at both the state and federal levels.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is \$13,246,508,860,572.07.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$2,608,083,114,278.27 so far this Congress.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

CELEBRATING THE 60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF FRANCIS AND HOBART MARCHANT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the marriage of Francis Helen Marchant and Hobart Clay Marchant. Francis and Hobart embody everything a couple should and have created a legacy in their commitment to one another that their 5 children carry on in their own lives. As one of those five, I know this very well. Throughout their lives, they have dedicated themselves to the betterment of those with whom they meet and know.

Francis Helen Jones was born in Cooper, Texas on January 14, 1930. Hobart Clay Marchant was born in Hilger, Texas on October 23, 1920. They were married on August 18, 1950, after Hobart served 5 years in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II and returned home. Hobart and Francis were both raised by farming parents in Northeast Texas but married in Grand Prairie, Texas, where both worked.

Early in their marriage Hobart worked as a carpenter. Soon after they wed, Hobart completed barber school in Fort Worth and worked

as a small businessman while he and Francis raised 5 children. Francis stayed at home to raise the children, and sold Highlights Magazines, babysat, and ironed clothes to help make ends meet.

Later in life, when their kids were grown, both Francis and Hobart Marchant worked in real estate. Hobart worked in the construction of residential homes and Francis sold homes for her husband and sons. Francis and Hobart raised their children in Dallas, moving to Carrollton in 1963 where they have lived ever since. They began attending the Church of the Nazarene over 50 years ago, and raised their children in the church. They currently attend Carrollton Church of the Nazarene, where they are still actively involved.

Their children have grown up and blessed them with 15 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren. All of the siblings still live in the area close to their parents. Francis and Hobart Marchant have created a legacy of enduring love and commitment to family, church, and service to their community. It is with recognition of these accomplishments that I ask all of my distinguished colleagues to join me in honoring Francis and Hobart Marchant and congratulating them on 60 years of marriage.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF BORDER PATROL AGENT WILLIE BARBER

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Assistant Chief Border Patrol Agent Willie Barber of the Laredo, Texas Sector Border Patrol. Mr. Barber has recently retired with a total of 31 years of government service to our great Nation.

Willie Barber was born and raised in El Paso, Texas. He has spent his career in 6 cities, driven by his devotion to service to our country. Agent Barber and his wife, Maria L. De La Rosa, have two children, Willie III and Renee DeLu.

He began his career by serving 8½ years in the United States Air Force. He joined the U.S. Border Patrol in 1988 and worked 7½ years in the station of Rio Grande City, Texas. He was later stationed in Brownsville, Texas, where he served as a Supervisory Border Patrol Agent. Following that, Agent Barber worked in Douglas, Arizona, as a Field Operations Supervisor. Afterwards, he traveled to El Paso, Texas, where he worked as Special Operations Supervisor. Barber then worked in Washington, DC, as an Assistant Chief in the Office of Border Patrol. Most recently, Agent Barber served as Assistant Chief Patrol Agent of the Laredo, Texas Sector Border Patrol.

Agent Barber is a 2008 distinguished graduate of Harvard University's "Senior Executive Fellows" program and a 2004 graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the time to recognize the dedication, commitment and leadership of Assistant Chief Border Patrol Agent Willie Barber.

REGARDING JED WUNDERLICH

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I come before the House of Representatives to honor an extraordinary young man, Jed Wunderlich, from the heart of Utah's third congressional district, Milford, Utah.

Jed was born with hydrocephalus, and has undergone numerous surgeries for his condition. Jed has experienced more physical pain in his short life than many of us wily ever experience throughout our lifetimes. Yet through his many surgeries and hospitalizations, he has remained positive and serves as an inspiration for his Milford All South Cal Ripkin summer all-star baseball team.

Although Jed has never been on a baseball team before, he has proven himself to be an important member of Milford's team. Despite having no experience pitching, Jed's coach, Jacob Ihde, recently put Jed in as pitcher. Jed proceeded to strike out three batters.

Jed is an inspiration to his classmates, the people of Utah, and those who suffer from hydrocephalus. I am proud to honor his accomplishments and hope to see many more from this motivating young man.

[From the Deseret News, July 22, 2010.]

MILFORD BOY INSPIRES TEAM, COMMUNITY

(By Cynthia Kimball Humphreys)

Milford, Beaver County.—Jed Wunderlich's positive attitude is probably why he wasn't cut from Milford's All South Cal Ripkin summer all-star baseball team even though he'd never been on a team before.

And perhaps it was why coach Jacob Ihde, after noticing the 11-year-old seemed down after sitting on the bench for the first four innings of a recent game, asked him if he wanted to pitch. There was just one small problem. Jed had never pitched before.

For a split second, Jed looked at his coach in disbelief. Then he bolted to the mound as though he knew what he was doing.

"I was afraid for him," said Jed's mother, Trish Wunderlich. "But I trusted the coaches knew what they were doing."

Three strikeouts later, Jed was flying high, smiling incessantly.

The crowd went wild standing and cheering on their feet, moved to tears.

"I just bawled," said Milford coach Gary Mayer.

Even umpire Merlin Figgins took off his mask to wipe away tears.

Trish Wunderlich couldn't contain herself. After all, she'd seen her boy in pain and held him so many times when it was unbearable—especially in 2006 when he had what she calls "the big surgery" at Primary Children's Medical Center where he had his whole face moved forward. An incision was made from ear to ear, skull bone was cut then made bigger and eventually put back together again in an 11-hour surgery.

A mid-face distracter was inserted behind his right ear that Jed's parents would have to turn twice daily to help his skull grow. The pain was excruciating for Jed and for his parents, who not only had to turn the distracter, but also had to watch and hear Jed scream and cry out in agony.

Jed was born with hydrocephalus (water on the brain) and had undergone 60 surgeries by the time he turned 11, the first when he was just 8 months old after his parents wondered why his head was so large at 2 weeks old. By age 7, he would be diagnosed with Crusins

Syndrome, a genetic disorder characteristic of swelling on the brain. Most of his many surgeries were shunt surgeries, where fluid is drained from the brain. The Wunderliches know Primary Children's Medical Center all too well, often staying there with Jed for 30 days at a time.

Even so, when his mother asks him, "How come you smile so much?" He simply and matter-of-factly replies, "Because I'm happy."

"He just draws people to him wherever he goes," she said.

"I've had a couple of complete strangers come up to us and say they get some kind of vibe off of him," added his father, Ryan Wunderlich. "They don't even know his name or circumstances."

"How did you feel when you were pitching?" Trish Wunderlich later asked her son. "Excited and happy," is all he said.

"None of his teammates say, 'Why are you putting Jed in?'" said grandmother Susan Nettle proudly.

Milford Elementary School Principal Ben Dalton, who has known Jed for five years, spoke of how Jed was in and out of school for several years, but worked hard to keep up with his studies, never complaining, so that he kept on track with his class.

"He never asks to be treated differently," he said.

"The other kids in school really like him. He has a lot of friends. He looks out for them, and they look out for him even though Jed's been described as socially backward, uncoordinated and quite shy," Trish Wunderlich said. "In addition, he's been self-conscious of his surgeries and the medical equipment."

When asked how he likes playing on the baseball team, Jed said, "I'm having a lot of fun," unaware of the positive impact he has on others.

"He's always smiling, always happy, always pumped up," Ihde said. "There aren't even words to describe what he means to our team. We appreciate what he does. . . . It makes us closer."

Asked to describe Jed in one word, 12-year-old teammate Garreth Mayer quickly replied, "Inspirational. We're happy he's on our team. He's the heart of our team."

"There's a lot more to coaching young kids than wins and losses," said tournament director Greg Excel.

And with determination and opportunity, anything is possible.

Even three strikeouts from a boy who never pitched a day in his life.

EPA WATER QUALITY REGULATION ON FLORIDA'S ECONOMY

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on October 15th, the EPA will finalize the first phase of an unprecedented statewide water quality regulation which will have significant impacts on Florida's economy. While these regulations only apply to Florida, it could have a regional impact if our State's taxpayers are held accountable for the quality of water flowing from neighboring States. My colleagues should take note of this as these regulations are likely to arrive in your States and districts soon without your input and without a debate on this floor.

Last year, the Obama administration and the EPA entered into a legally binding agreement with environmental activists seeking to

impose stringent numeric nutrient criteria for water bodies in the State of Florida. It was lawyers in a courtroom and not scientists in a lab who set the standard and timeline on what will be a costly endeavor that has not been backed up by science.

These regulations could not come at a worse time as they pose a significant threat to Florida's already weakened economy. A joint Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and University of Florida study indicates these regulations could cost Florida over 14,500 jobs and \$902 million to \$1.6 billion annually, with additional indirect economic impacts to the State of over \$1 billion annually.

Even worse, there is significant debate in the environmental community as to whether these federal regulations will even benefit the environment. The comments expressed by the State and local agencies charged with protecting Florida's waters raise serious concerns about the methodology EPA used to develop these regulations. Our State Department of Environmental Protection says that "compliance will force an investment of billions of dollars without environmental benefit." The scientists at DEP further claim that "EPA proposed criteria do not reflect a true relationship between nutrient enrichment and the biological health of Florida's surface waters."

The South Florida Water Management District—the lead State agency charged with the restoration of the Everglades—calls the current proposed implementation timeline "unrealistic" and that the proposed methodology has real potential to disrupt Everglades restoration.

It is also questionable as to whether the technology even exists for our local governments and private industries to meet the standards proposed by EPA. Even if it does, the costs imposed will flow to the consumer in the form of higher utility bills.

But despite all the legitimate science based concerns, EPA marches forward bound by a consent decree they did not have to sign in the first place. When members of the Florida delegation met with EPA administrator Lisa Jackson, she promised to review the rigor of their science. The problem is, she did not have the flexibility in time to review their own science without getting permission from the ones who sued them. Will this be the EPA's standard business practice for water quality regulations in the future?

When Congress passed the Clean Water Act, its intent was to create a collaborative approach with the Federal Government partnering with the States to clean our Nation's waters. It was not intended to promote a heavy handed Washington-knows-best agenda.

Of course, Floridians want cleaner water—which is why our State has invested millions collecting data on the effects of nutrients. Over the past three decades, Floridians have successfully committed to substantial reductions in phosphorous levels through an EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Load, TMDL, program. We are seeing the positive results of these programs in water bodies across the State.

I was pleased to learn that EPA would submit the part of its proposed rule which would apply to estuaries, coastal waters, and flowing waters in South Florida to their internal Science Advisory Board. When EPA made this announcement in June, their own press re-

lease quoted the assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Water as saying:

An independent scientific peer review by the SAB will ensure that the best available science is our guide in developing clean water standards for Florida's coast.

Shouldn't the best available science be afforded to north and central Florida as well?

Florida is one the most diverse States in terms of its aquatic ecosystems, from the rare coastal dune lakes in the panhandle to the mangroves, swamps, and spring-fed lakes and rivers throughout central Florida. An SAB review of only South Florida waters ignores this diversity in the rest of the State.

I urge EPA to conduct a full SAB review of this proposed rule for all Florida waters and to modify its rulemaking in accordance with SAB's analysis so that Floridians can continue to enjoy clean water, protected by a standard that is achievable and supported by the best available science.

HISTORY OF THE RADAR SITES OF ICELAND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, during the Cold War, Iceland served as a listening station with four radar sites that were manned by America's brave men and women in uniform to deter a Soviet bomber nuclear attack on America. An organization in Chapin, South Carolina, called the Iceland Reunion at www.usradarsitesiceland.com, is dedicated to the memory of all of the men and women who served on these U.S. radar sites. The mission of this organization, chaired by Retired Air Force Master Sergeant William A. Chick, is to preserve and document the history of the air defense of Iceland and the North Atlantic passage to the United States and the Free World.

Mr. Chick encourages those interested in preserving Cold War history to visit their informational website and also read, "The History of the radar sites of Iceland" by Gerald H. Tonnell which is the unofficial history of fifty years of the strategic radar sites which successfully preserved peace and promoted freedom in the struggle between democracy and communism with the ultimate victory over communism.

I thank Mr. Chick and other members who are working hard to preserve the memory and the mission of those military surveillance operators who served our great nation. America will always cherish the service of these patriots and the hosting by the people of our long-time NATO ally Iceland.

A TRIBUTE TO MR. JOSEPH A. FRICK

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Joseph A. Frick, President and Chief

Executive Officer of Independence Blue Cross, on receiving the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's Hope Award. Mr. Frick's work to improve Philadelphia exemplifies his upstanding character and worthiness of receiving the Hope Award.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame and Loyola College, Mr. Frick has a long and impressive career of working for the people of Philadelphia. For several years, Mr. Frick worked at Philadelphia Newspapers Incorporated, the company that publishes the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Daily News, eventually being promoted to the Vice President of Human Resources. Currently, Mr. Frick is Chairman of the Board of Directors for Leadership Incorporated, a program preparing Philadelphia leaders like Mr. Frick himself, for influential roles in the community. He also has served on the Board of Directors for Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce, LaSalle University, the Penjerdel Council, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and the Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board.

On October 22nd, Mr. Frick will be acknowledged by more than 600 attendees at the Greater Delaware Valley Chapter of the National MS Society's Reception in Philadelphia. The Hope Award is the National Multiple Sclerosis Society's highest honor and is only bestowed upon an individual who has taken the initiative to affect the community through philanthropic service and community leadership. Mr. Frick's philanthropic work has benefitted more than 13,000 people in the Greater Delaware Valley who live with MS, and he is greatly deserving of this honor.

Mr. Frick's impressive career proves a long-standing commitment to the people of Philadelphia. Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring my friend, Joseph A. Frick, for his work in Philadelphia and congratulate him on receiving the Hope Award.

ST. CECILIA ACADEMY

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, 150 years ago, four women from Somerset, Ohio arrived in Nashville, Tennessee to establish an Academy for the higher education of young women in the Diocese of Nashville. Run by the Congregation of St. Cecilia, Tennessee's only Motherhouse of Dominican Sisters, St. Cecilia's Academy boasts 2,500 alumnae from the oldest continuously operated school in Nashville. I rise today with gratitude for the hard work and dedication by the Sisters of St. Cecilia, and the faculty and staff of St. Cecilia's Academy.

St. Cecilia's Academy, the only all-girls, Catholic high school in Middle Tennessee, first opened its doors in October of 1860 in North Nashville. Borrowing lanterns from local rail yards to light the grounds, the first commencement exercises were held in June of 1862. Two young women of St. Cecilia's Academy celebrated their graduation that day, along with a thousand guests, all in the throws of the Civil War. Despite the financial toll of the War, St. Cecilia's remained operational, and indeed

flourished in the years to follow. Additions to the school on the hill came in 1880, 1888, and 1904. Following the westward expansion of Nashville, 92 acres of land was purchased in West Nashville in 1923 and the site of the current campus was established on the feast of St. Cecilia, 1956.

What began with as a small boarding school is now the academic home for over 250 witnesses to the school's belief in the dignity of the individual, made in the image of the Almighty. Grounded in rich academic traditions, St. Cecilia's Academy has four times been recognized by the Acton Institute as one of the top catholic high schools in America. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the sesquicentennial founding of St. Cecilia's Academy as we look with great hope to the next 150 years of excellence in education.

**HONORING THE WORK OF THE
NORTHWEST PHYSICIANS NET-
WORK FOR RECEIVING THE
PIERCE COUNTY HEALTH CARE
CHAMPIONS 2010 BUSINESS
AWARD**

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Northwest Physicians Network for receiving the Health Care Champions 2010 Business Award for providing excellent health care and treatment for patients.

In 1995, a group of physicians came together under the common goal of providing better and more coordinated health care for their community. With this goal in mind, they created the Northwest Physicians Network. Since its founding, the network has since grown to include over 500 independent physicians and numerous practices rooted in communities throughout the Pacific Northwest. The network strives to offer the best health care possible, starting with building lasting physician-patient relationships.

On May 25, 2010, the Health Care Champions program, a partnership between the Business Examiner and the Pierce County Medical Society, presented the Northwest Physicians Network with the 2010 Business Award. The Health Care Champions recognize the Northwest Physicians Network's Fit Futures Employee Wellness Program and the organization's dedication, exceptional service, and professionalism in medical practice. The award was presented at the Pierce County Health Care Champions annual awards ceremony held at the Tacoma Museum of Glass in downtown Tacoma, Washington.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Northwest Physicians Network on receiving the Pierce County Health Care Champions 2010 Business Award and the outstanding work of the entire Northwest Physicians Network staff.

**INTRODUCING A BILL TO IMPROVE
DIABETES SCREENING FOR
MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES**

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues, Representatives SPACE, CASTLE and DEGETTE, to introduce a bill that will improve diabetes screening for Medicare beneficiaries. The bill we are introducing will direct the Secretary of HHS to review utilization of screening programs and establish an outreach program to improve screening awareness.

According to the American Diabetes Association, a sizeable 32 percent of Americans over the age of 65 have diabetes and of that group, 46 percent remain undiagnosed. In my district alone, 41,000 seniors are living with diabetes. CMS data reflects that only 11.5 percent of Medicare beneficiaries take advantage of diabetes screening benefits. Awareness of screening benefits, diagnosis and early treatment are key components to ensuring that our seniors are healthy and helping to reduce overall costs to health care.

I encourage my colleagues to take a close look at this bill and consider becoming a co-sponsor.

**COMMENDING AIR TRAFFIC
CONTROLLERS**

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1401, a resolution expressing gratitude for the contributions of the air traffic controllers of the United States.

The women and men who work as air traffic controllers are dedicated to the protection of the flying public. On a daily basis, their work requires quick and skilled reactions to complex and dangerous situations. The safety of our air space is required all day, every day of the year—including holidays. More than 15,600 Federal air traffic controllers, 1,250 civilian contract controllers, and more than 9,000 military controllers are committed to meeting this demand. Air traffic controllers allow all Americans to travel with assurance of safety and speed of travel.

These individuals are quiet heroes deserving of recognition. With continued growth in air travel, the United States must invest in the modernization of our air traffic control system. These dedicated workers require the resources to carry out their mission.

**HONORING THE WINNERS AND
PARTICIPANTS OF THE 2010
CROSSFIT GAMES**

HON. JOHN SULLIVAN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to honor the

winners and participants of the 2010 CrossFit Games held in Carson, California from July 16 to July 18, 2010.

CrossFit was created in the mid-80s by former gymnast Greg Glassman. When it was first introduced, it was a completely different form of physical training that was developed to enhance an individual's competency at all physical tasks and functional movements in everyday life. Greg Glassman moved to Santa Cruz, California, in 1995, and he and wife Lauren Glassman opened the first independent CrossFit gym there in 1999. Since then, CrossFit has expanded to about 1,900 affiliated gyms worldwide, with each operating as its own independent small business.

While at first, the concepts and training associated with CrossFit seem to be aimed for the elite athlete, military special operations units, police academies and tactical operations teams, the fact that it has grown so much so quickly is a testament to CrossFit's ideology that the needs of the average person, like myself, and the Olympic athlete differ by degree not kind. This is especially important today, when my state of Oklahoma and our nation faces an obesity epidemic that is not only straining our health care system, but causing chronic health conditions like diabetes, heart disease and cancer. The medical benefits, increased self confidence, and stress reduction that can come from athletic activity help contribute to a healthier, more productive Oklahoma and nation.

There is no better test of all around fitness, not focusing on one single type of event, than the CrossFit Games, where multiple and varied workouts are held each day over a three day competition. The workouts over the duration of each day are not announced until a few hours before each event which means that the athletes are training for a competition whose format is almost completely a mystery. One of the workouts in this year's Games was the following:

Event 2a—For time (22 min cap): run 1,200 meters, 63 kettlebell swings (55/36 lbs.), 36 pull-ups, run 800 meters, 42 kettlebell swings (55/36 lbs.), 24 pull-ups, run 400 meters, 21 kettlebell swings (55/36 lbs.), and 12 pull-ups.

Event 2b—Within 90 seconds of completing Event 2a: 1 rep max Shoulder-to-Overhead.

Approximately 4000 men and women initially entered the preliminary events earlier this year to not only competing for a spot in the Games but to challenge oneself. The large number of contenders eventually narrowed down to 45 men and 41 women competing for the claim as the fittest in the world. Every single individual competitor, masters athlete and affiliate team earned the right to compete through old-fashioned hard work and dedication to physical fitness.

I want to congratulate the winners of the individual competition, who can now say they are among the fittest athletes in the world, Graham Holmberg from New Albany, Ohio and Kristan Clever from Sherman Oaks, California. Both athletes not only exhibited great skill, but gut-wrenching effort that ultimately put them on top. They are an inspiration to all that hard work pays off in the end.

I would also like to congratulate the affiliate team winner of the Games, CrossFit Fort Vancouver, as well as the masters category individual competition winners Laurie Carver and Brian Curley.

Finally, I would like to congratulate my hometown gym in Tulsa, Oklahoma, CrossFit

Sky, that competed in the affiliate completion and finished 30th. I witnessed firsthand all the hard work and dedication that ultimately granted them a spot in the Games. The members of CrossFit Sky's affiliate team are Amy Quimby, Hollace Fugate, Mandy Malloy, Sean Malloy, Brian Head, Tom Sharp, Aaron Fugate and Mike Quimby.

The CrossFit Games are only a small part of CrossFit as a whole which is ultimately spreading the desire to make oneself live a healthier and more productive lifestyle. It is available to everyone, not just elite athletes. The same concepts behind CrossFit used to train elite athletes can be used for people of all ages to help them reach their fitness goals. Tony Budding from CrossFit headquarters couldn't have said it any better, "CrossFit is really about helping others achieve their goals. For even the top athletes, their achievements are temporary, whereas the impact we make on others is lasting."

I rise today not only to honor these great athletes who have not only achieved the ultimate success of being named among the fittest in the world, but to celebrate the sport of fitness in general. In an era when we are faced with less time for physical activity and the temptation and convenience of unhealthy food, it is important for all Americans to take simple steps to live long and better lives, especially considering the obesity epidemic facing my state of Oklahoma and our Nation. I believe CrossFit is helping in this fight against obesity and I challenge all Americans to challenge themselves to live a healthier lifestyle.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HARRIS RF COMMUNICATIONS IN ROCHESTER, NY

HON. LOUISE MCINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in order to express my sincere congratulations to Harris RF Communications on celebrating its 50th anniversary.

The division is a shining example of how a sense of entrepreneurship and perseverance can leave a lasting impression on an industry and a community.

Started by Bill Stolze, Elmer Schwittek, Roger Bettin and Herbert VandenBrul in 1960, the outfit has transformed itself from a basement operation in Rochester, NY to a \$2 billion dollar business in international company producing cutting edge technology.

It is especially fitting that we celebrate this achievement as this radio is used and sought after by every branch of the U.S. Department of Defense as well as several of our ally nations. Today, their radios are seen not only as meeting industry standards, but surpassing them with their forward looking technology. Their products contain next-generation communications capabilities that are designed to be compatible with existing communications systems. Moreover, they can be upgraded in the future to grow as new software and encryption technology advances.

It is this superior design and production, which was recognized by the U.S. Army as one of 2007's greatest inventions that leaves me confident that our troops and those of our

allies are in good hands while using Harris RF Communications products.

The company, which has given so much to the industry, should also be commended on their dedication to the community. Their mark has not only been felt through their donations to local educational institutions, but by participating in mentoring youth in engineering such as the newly established Harris Scholars Program for economically disadvantaged young girls.

However, no achievement is won alone, so I would also like to recognize all of Harris' local employees for the critical work they perform every day in support of our soldiers. Their care and dedication assure me that there are many more years of innovative products to come.

INTER-LOCAL PENSION FUND BILL

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to improve the retirement savings of hard-working union members. Specifically, members of the Inter-Local Pension Fund of the Graphic Communications Conference of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters do not have access to some of the same retirement provisions that other workers do. And I think it simply makes no sense.

The Fund, formed in 1950, is a 501(c)(18) pension trust that provides benefits to 12,500 active and 20,000 retired union members. Sixty-eight local affiliated unions participate in the Fund, and benefits are financed entirely by employee contributions and the earnings thereon. Section 501(c)(18) provides a tax exemption for a pension trust created before June 25, 1959 and funded solely by employee contributions. Further, the pension plan of which the trust is part must satisfy certain non-discrimination tests. The Fund appears to be the sole remaining section 501(c)(18) pension trust in existence.

Madam Speaker, my legislation would simply apply the same cap to annual contributions to 501(c)(18) pension trusts that applies to annual elective deferrals in 401(k) plans. Those caps for workers in 401(k) plans are also adjusted for inflation. Without such parity the Fund's pension value will continue to decline. These workers deserve to be on equal ground as 401(k) participants.

Additionally, the legislation makes available to the Fund the same exception from the debt-financed real property rules currently available to section 401 pension trusts allowing for better diversification of assets.

In closing, Madam Speaker, these provisions will allow the Fund to better serve its union members and do so in sync with its tax exempt purpose of providing self-funded employee benefits. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MABLE A. WATKINS-CASS ON THE OCCASION OF HER 75TH BIRTHDAY

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to and honor a distinguished constituent, community leader, humanitarian, and family woman, Mrs. Mable A. Watkins-Cass, on the occasion of her 75th birthday. A native of Holly Springs, Mississippi, Mrs. Watkins-Cass and her parents moved to Chicago in her early teens. She graduated from the Chicago Public Schools and attended Wilson Junior College in Chicago.

A retired employee of the Chicago Public Schools, Mrs. Watkins-Cass remains active in the Morgan Park community of my congressional district. She is the mother of four adult children, a grandmother and great-grandmother and is a dedicated member of the Vernon Park Church of God on the southside of Chicago.

Mrs. Watkins-Cass continues a lifelong commitment towards making a difference in the lives of other people. She is a shining example of how God can use even the ordinary to accomplish the extraordinary. She has endeavored to share the wisdom and knowledge that God has granted her with others to enable them to prosper in knowledge and wisdom. Indeed, many who have had the privilege of knowing and associating with her have come to recognize that they are much better the person as a result.

Madam Speaker, it is my great honor to pay tribute to and congratulate my constituent and friend, Mrs. Mable A. Watkins-Cass on the occasion of her 75th birthday. I want to encourage her to continue to let her light so shine that men and women will see her good works and give glory to God in Heaven. I am privileged to enter these words into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States House of Representatives.

STATEMENT HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF CONTINENTAL STRUCTURAL PLASTICS (CSP), LLC-SAREPTA, LOUISIANA

HON. JOHN FLEMING

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. FLEMING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the hard work and dedication of a local Louisiana manufacturer. The manufacturer that I am recognizing has demonstrated innovation in manufacturing operations and business growth, as well as a commitment to community involvement.

Continental Structural Plastics (CSP), LLC—Sarepta, located within my district in Louisiana, has been providing innovative and technical solutions to Louisiana manufacturers since 1997. The economic impact that CSP-Sarepta brings to North Louisiana is significant. The facility employs more than 1180 people with an annual payroll of \$5 million. This local manufacturer has made noteworthy advances in productivity throughout their organization resulting in substantial growth. Because of these accomplishments, CSP-

Sarepta a will be honored by the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Louisiana (MEPOL), with the Fifth annual Platinum Award for Continued Excellence, PACE Award.

MEPOL, a non-profit business resource based at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, serves to provide business and technical assistance to emerging and established manufacturing firms throughout the State of Louisiana. Since 1997, MEPOL, based on a philosophy of education, encouragement, and empowerment, has worked with manufacturers such as CSP-Sarepta to increase their productivity and profitability.

**HONORING SAVAGE PRECISION
FABRICATION**

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Savage Precision Fabrication for being named the Small Business Subcontractor of the Year.

Savage Precision Fabrication, and its owner W.T. Gardner, represent the very best of the American entrepreneurial spirit. The company is a Native American and Veteran owned business, founded by W.T. Gardner and his business partner and wife, JoAnn. The company started as a one man shop fabricating sheet metal components with only \$2,000 worth of tools and equipment, and now boasts over \$4 million in annual sales, and is a preferred manufacturer in the aerospace and defense industry.

I am proud to have a company like Savage Precision in my district. Small businesses like this are what make America great, and I would again like to congratulate Savage Precision for their accomplishments and service to our country.

**HONORING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR BRAD
OWEN, RECIPIENT OF THE 2010
GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN INTER-
NATIONAL BUSINESS COMMEMO-
RATIVE AWARD**

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen for his contribution to the growth of international trade in Washington State.

Brad Owen has served as Washington State's 15th Lieutenant Governor, first elected to the position in 1996. Since taking office, Lieutenant Governor Owen has been a leader on trade, conducting many foreign trade missions and advocating for stronger economic and international ties for Washington State.

The Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce presented Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen with the 2010 George Francis Train International Business Commemorative Award on June 2, 2010. Given at the annual Tacoma Globe Awards Dinner, hosted by the

World Trade Center Tacoma, this award is presented annually to honor businesses' and individuals' contributions to the region's strong international economy.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen on this impressive achievement, and celebrate his many contributions to growth of international trade in Washington State.

**RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF "TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD"**

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 1525, which recognizes the 50th anniversary of the classic novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which was written by Nelle Harper Lee of Monroeville, Alabama. This novel has become an American classic and every year thousands of students across the country read it and grapple with the significant moral issues that it raises.

I thank Chairman TOWNS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I would also like to thank Congressman BONNER for introducing this important measure.

Growing up in Monroeville, Alabama, Harper Lee was no stranger to the racial injustice of the American South in the first half of the 20th Century. In 1960, she decided to publish a novel channeling the racial climate she experienced during her youth. This novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, is considered one of the greatest American novels of our time. Its depiction of racial inequality as seen through the eyes of a child offers a unique and insightful view of American race relations in the segregated South.

Madam Speaker, when I was growing up, students across the country read *To Kill a Mockingbird* in high school. While discussing the novel with one of my interns, Brittni Hamilton, I learned that she read the novel as early as middle school. I guess such a classic novel that raises such important issues about the social and moral character of our nation cannot wait until high school any longer. In any case, I am pleased that all the young people in our nation are exposed to the timeless moral lessons of *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Madam Speaker, Harper Lee's novel is classic. In addition to winning a Pulitzer Prize, *To Kill a Mockingbird* has also earned Harper Lee induction into the American Academy of Arts and Letters as well as the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Since first being published in 1960, it has sold over 30 million copies. I am proud that our nation continues to cherish and appreciate this landmark literary achievement.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

**THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO:
FRIEND OR FOE?**

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of my colleagues to a letter

I recently sent to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as well as reports from nongovernmental organizations, NGOs, regarding human rights and religious freedom in Morocco and the Moroccan occupied territory of Western Sahara.

Since March, dozens of U.S. citizens and foreign nationals have been expelled from Morocco without due process on charges of proselytism. In the wake of this action, I have repeatedly called on the board of the Millennium Challenge Corporation to suspend the \$697.5 million compact with the government of Morocco. As Americans deal with tough economic times, it is unacceptable for U.S. taxpayer dollars to continue to flow into a country which flagrantly disregards the rights of U.S. citizens.

I am continuing to press the MCC to act decisively to suspend the compact with Morocco until the government of Morocco agrees to the return of all United States citizens affected by the expulsions, thereby sending a clear message that these actions by a purported ally will not be tolerated.

Morocco's recent actions may seem surprising to many, but to those who have followed events in the Moroccan occupied territory of the Western Sahara, this is business as usual for the Moroccan government.

Yet the Obama administration has remained notably silent on these issues despite repeated calls from within the Congress to address these grave injustices. Just yesterday, the Senate Appropriations Committee passed its version of the FY 2011 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations measures which "directed the Secretary of State to submit a report not later than 45 days after the enactment of this act, detailing steps taken by the Government of Morocco in the previous 12 months on human rights, including deportation of U.S. citizens in Morocco without due process of law, and whether it is allowing all persons to advocate freely their views regarding the status and future of the Western Sahara through the exercise of their rights to peaceful expression and association, and to document violations of human rights in the territory without harassment."

I submit for the RECORD my letter to Secretary Clinton as well as reports by highly respected NGOs clearly illustrate Morocco's disregard for the basic principles of human rights and religious freedom as outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, July 28, 2010.

Hon. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON,
Secretary of State,
Washington DC.

DEAR SECRETARY CLINTON: I write today to express my continued concern about the situation involving Americans in Morocco and urge you to issue a strong statement in support of the American citizens whose lives have been uprooted by the Moroccan government's recent actions. I ask that either you or President Obama call on the Moroccan government to unconditionally allow all those expelled or denied reentry to return to Morocco.

Just yesterday, yet another U.S. citizen, Mike Hutchinson, was denied reentry into Morocco. This came after repeated assurances by the Moroccan government to the U.S. Embassy in Rabat that the expulsion order issued to Mr. Hutchinson last month had been suspended and he was free to reenter the country at a time of his choosing.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Embassy in Rabat remained blissfully unaware of the events unfolding at the airport. It is my understanding the U.S. Embassy had been contacted and was fully aware of Mr. Hutchinson's intentions to reenter Morocco and had in its possession the details of his flight itinerary. However, embassy officials failed to communicate Mr. Hutchinson's planned reentry to the Moroccan government to ensure his passage into the country.

The U.S. Embassy in Rabat has an obligation to defend and protect American interests in Morocco. This instance demonstrates a clear failure by U.S. government officials to carry out their basic duties. An American embassy should be an island of freedom which vigorously represents the interests of the United States and its citizens. These events clearly reflect that the U.S. Embassy in Rabat is falling short of its obligations.

Despite all this, U.S. taxpayer dollars continue to pour into Morocco through the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The stated purpose of the MCC is to form "partnerships with some of the world's poorest countries, but only those committed to: good governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizens." As a precondition to receiving MCC funds, the government of Morocco was evaluated on 17 key indicators of eligibility.

A recent report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO) on the Millennium Challenge Corporation found that on the 17 key indicators "Morocco met MCC's eligibility criteria in 2005 and 2006 but has failed each year since." The failure of the government of Morocco to meet the criteria for four consecutive years shows a clear unwillingness to live up to the pledges made when awarded the MCC compact. The recent expulsion and denial of reentry to U.S. citizens engaged in work which provided humanitarian services to the people of Morocco should erase any doubt about Morocco's commitment to the core principles of the MCC.

It is unacceptable for U.S. taxpayer dollars to continue to flow into Morocco under these circumstances. By failing to suspend the MCC compact with Morocco, the United States sends a message to the world that we are willing to turn a blind eye to injustice, even when the interests of our own citizens are at stake.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and I look forward to your response.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

FRANK R. WOLF,
Member of Congress.

[From the Economist, July 29, 2010]

STOP PREACHING OR GET OUT

Evangelical Christians in the poor world are rarely accused of undermining public order. All the more surprising, then, that in recent months around a hundred have been deported from Morocco for just that. The Christians, mostly from the United States and Europe, have been accused of trying to convert Muslims to Christianity, a crime punishable by imprisonment under Moroccan law, which protects the freedom to practise one's faith but forbids any attempt to convert others.

Rules against proselytising are quite common in Muslim countries but Morocco has long enjoyed a reputation as a bastion of religious tolerance in the region. Almost all the country's 32m citizens are Sunni Muslims but churches and synagogues exist, alongside mosques, to cater for the 1% of the people who are Christian or Jewish.

Such open-mindedness presumably appealed to the Christian missionaries who ran

the "Village of Hope" home for children 80km (50 miles) south of Fez, a former capital known for religion and scholarship. The 16 aid-workers had cared for abandoned children for over a decade when, in March, the Moroccan authorities sent inspectors to the orphanage, then gave the workers a few days' notice to leave the country. Witnesses reported distraught farewells between the Moroccan children and the foreigners who had acted as foster parents.

Morocco's communications minister, Khaled Naciri, said the missionaries "took advantage of the poverty of some families and targeted their young children". The aid-workers deny pumping the children with Christianity. But sympathisers say that even if they did, a few hours of preaching was a small price to pay for education and pastoral care. There have been further expulsions since then, most recently of an evangelical Spanish teacher.

Local residents are quick to point out that it is not only Christians who have been targets; last year a similar campaign was waged against Morocco's even smaller population of Shia Muslims. But the motivation for the crackdowns is probably political more than religious. Morocco's constitution is based on the hereditary position of the king as "commander of the faithful". Any drift of Muhammad VI's subjects away from the dominant stream of moderate Sunni Islam might, his advisers fear, diminish his authority.

The American branch of an evangelical organisation, Open Doors, which speaks up for persecuted Christians across the world, is backing a campaign by a Republican congressman, Frank Wolf, to press the Moroccans to be kinder to the evangelicals. Seeing that Morocco is one of America's closest Arab allies, the American administration has been notably silent.

[From the Star Tribune, July 24, 2010]

IS OUR MAN IN MOROCCO UP TO THE JOB?

(By Katherine Kersten)

Minneapolis lawyer Sam Kaplan—a DFL fundraiser extraordinaire—was a member of Barack Obama's national campaign-finance committee. In 2009, Obama rewarded him by naming him ambassador to Morocco.

The exotic posting must have seemed a plum job. Morocco has been known as an oasis among Arab nations—largely free of the repression that mars so many other Muslim countries. It's "the opportunity of a lifetime for a guy from Minnesota," Kaplan enthused to the Star Tribune in April.

But since Kaplan's arrival, Morocco has turned from a diplomatic dream job to a depressing despotic reality. Since March, it has expelled about 100 foreigners, including 50 U.S. citizens. Among the deportees were foster parents at an orphanage, businesspeople and aid workers who taught the poor to grow their own food.

Their crime? Christian "proselytizing"—against the law in this Muslim monarchy.

On June 17, some deportees told their heart-wrenching stories at a hearing convened by Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va, cochairman of Congress's Human Rights Commission.

Witnesses included Eddie and Lynn Padilla, foster parents at Village of Hope orphanage. The orphanage—which has both Christian and Muslim staff—cared for 33 abandoned children and had operated for 10 years with official approval. But in March, the police moved in and swept through children's bedrooms while they slept, searching for Christian literature.

After three days of grilling, the Padillas and others were given two hours to clear out, as their children sobbed in anguish. Though no evidence was presented, their assets were seized and their bank accounts frozen. Since

their departure, there is evidence that some children have been beaten or drugged.

Witness Michael Cloud, also a Christian, founded 12 centers that treat Moroccan children with cerebral palsy. Cloud testified that authorities barred his reentry as he tried to return from Egypt (where his wife was being treated for cancer). He was held for 13 hours and deported with no explanation. The "hard work" of 14 years was lost, he stated.

So how's our man Sam Kaplan doing defending American citizens from these egregious human-rights violations?

The Padillas testified that the U.S. Embassy had no time for them during their ordeal: "They just told us, 'Do what they are telling you to do.' They offered no help . . . [or] any kind of counsel, just pack and go." Cloud testified that when he sought help, the embassy just gave him a list of lawyers.

At the hearing, international-law expert Sandra Bunn-Livingstone stated that despite victims' pleas, Kaplan refused to release a Moroccan government diplomatic note with a list of deportees, citing protocol. As a result, "Americans who would like to appeal under Moroccan law . . . have been refused that right" since they lack written proof of expulsion, she said. The British and Canadian governments did hand over such notes, she added.

Perhaps Kaplan had other priorities. "A few weeks ago," Cloud testified, "the American embassy in Rabat brought Moroccans to Washington, D.C., and fed them and housed them to help them brainstorm on how to build businesses in the Muslim world."

That would make sense. According to the embassy website, Kaplan's goal as ambassador is "to help fulfill President Obama's vision of a new beginning for U.S. relations with the Muslim world based on mutual respect and . . . mutual interest."

In April, Kaplan responded to critics. He told the Star Tribune he had released a statement saying that the embassy was "distressed" by the expulsions. "We hope to see meaningful improvements in the application of due process," he wrote.

What's Kaplan doing to alleviate distress and promote due process?

A top priority seems to be to impress the Moroccan media, which complained that his statement had "stepped over the diplomatic line," according to the Star Tribune. "When your press has been almost unanimously positive for 5½ months, the change is something that is different," Kaplan explained.

Cozy relations with the Moroccan monarchy are another priority. According to the Star Tribune, "Kaplan noted that King Mohammed has spoken about judicial reform in the past."

"We're not speaking out in contrast to what the government has said," Kaplan told the paper. "We're simply joining with His Majesty and saying if we can be helpful, we'd like to do that."

Wolf rejects this. "An American embassy should be an island of freedom" in the country where it's located, vigorously advocating for its citizens, he says. "Every ambassador has to decide whether to represent Americans' interests in the country they're in or whether to represent the country they're in to America."

Looks like Kaplan has made his choice.

[From Freedom House]

FREEDOM IN THE WORLD—WESTERN SAHARA
(2010)

Talks between the Moroccan government and the pro-independence Polisario Front continued in 2009, but the two sides remained at odds over whether to allow a referendum on independence. Pro-independence activists continued to be detained and harassed, and

the conditions on the ground for most Sahrawis remained poor.

Western Sahara was ruled by Spain for nearly a century until Spanish troops withdrew in 1976, following a bloody guerrilla conflict with the pro-independence Popular Front for the Liberation of Saguia el-Hamra and Río de Oro (Polisario Front). Mauritania and Morocco both ignored Sahrawi aspirations and claimed the resource-rich region for themselves, agreeing to a partition in which Morocco received the northern two-thirds. However, the Polisario Front proclaimed an independent Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and continued its guerrilla campaign. Mauritania renounced its claim to the region in 1979, and Morocco filled the vacuum by annexing the entire territory.

Moroccan and Polisario forces engaged in a low-intensity armed conflict until the United Nations brokered a ceasefire in 1991. The agreement called for residents of Western Sahara to vote in a referendum on independence the following year, to be supervised by the newly established UN Mission for a Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). However, the vote never took place, with the two sides failing to agree on voter eligibility.

Morocco tried to bolster its annexation by offering financial incentives for Moroccans to move to Western Sahara and for Sahrawis to move to Morocco. Morocco also used more coercive measures to assert its control, engaging in forced resettlements of Sahrawis and long-term detention and “disappearances” of pro-independence activists.

In 2004, the Polisario Front accepted the UN Security Council’s Baker II plan (named after former UN special envoy and U.S. secretary of state James Baker), which called for up to five years of autonomy followed by a referendum on the territory’s status. However, Morocco rejected the plan, as it could lead to independence, and in 2007 offered its own autonomy plan.

Because the Polisario Front remained committed to an eventual referendum on independence, the two sides failed to make meaningful progress in several rounds of talks that started in 2007 and continued through 2009. Also in 2009, some UN Security Council members expressed concern about the human rights situation and proposed that the council consider expanding MINURSO’s mandate.

POLITICAL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

As the occupying force in Western Sahara, Morocco controls local elections and works to ensure that independence-minded leaders are excluded from both the local political process and the Moroccan Parliament.

Western Sahara is not listed separately on Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index, but corruption is believed to be at least as much of a problem as it is in Morocco.

According to the Moroccan constitution, the press is free, but this is not the case in practice. There is little in the way of independent Sahrawi media. Moroccan authorities are sensitive to any reporting that is not in line with the state’s official position on Western Sahara, and they continue to expel or detain Sahrawi, Moroccan, and foreign reporters who write critically on the issue. Human Rights Watch (HRW) reported that in October 2009, plainclothes police told two Morocco-based Spanish journalists to leave the El-Aaiun home of Sidi Mohamed Dadach, who heads the Committee to Support Self-Determination in Western Sahara (CODAPSO). Online media and independent satellite broadcasts are largely unavailable to the impoverished population.

Nearly all Sahrawis are Sunni Muslims, as are most Moroccans, and Moroccan authori-

ties generally do not interfere with their freedom of worship. There are no major universities or institutions of higher learning in Western Sahara.

Sahrawis are not permitted to form independent political or nongovernmental organizations, and their freedom of assembly is severely restricted. As in previous years, activists supporting independence and their suspected foreign sympathizers were subject to harassment in 2009. HRW, which has documented several violations, reported that Moroccan authorities referred seven Sahrawi activists to a military court in October after charging them with harming state security; there were no verdicts at year’s end. Moroccan officials appear to be particularly wary of Sahrawis who travel abroad to highlight the plight of their people and argue for independence. According to HRW, police in October 2009 began breaking up visits by foreign reporters and human rights activists to the homes of Sahrawi activists, rather than simply monitoring them; the police said the visits required clearance from Moroccan authorities.

Among Sahrawi activists themselves, HRW documented the case of Naama Asfari of the Paris-based Committee for the Respect of Freedoms and Human Rights in Western Sahara (CORELSO), who has been detained and harassed on numerous occasions over the years. In August 2009, he was sentenced to four months in jail after an argument with a police officer over the Sahrawi flag that Asfari had on his keychain. Asfari’s cousin, who was with him during the encounter, was also sentenced to jail time. In another high-profile case, activist Aminatou Haidar, head of the Collective of Sahrawi Human Rights Defenders (CODESA), returned in November to Western Sahara from the United States, where she had received a human rights award. She indicated on her reentry paperwork that she lived in Western Sahara, and when she refused to change the document to indicate Morocco, she was detained and eventually deported without a passport to Spain’s Canary Islands. Haidar was able to return home in December 2009 after a month-long hunger strike and considerable diplomatic pressure, but the authorities continued to monitor her and restrict her movements.

Sahrawis are technically subject to Moroccan labor laws, but there is little organized labor activity in the resource-rich but poverty-stricken territory.

International human rights groups have criticized Morocco’s record in Western Sahara for decades. A highly critical September 2006 report by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights—intended to be distributed only to Algeria, Morocco, and the Polisario Front—was leaked to the press that October. The human rights situation in the territory tends to worsen during periods of increased demonstrations against Moroccan rule. The Polisario Front has also been accused of disregarding human rights.

Morocco and the Polisario Front both restrict free movement in potential conflict areas. Morocco has been accused of using force and financial incentives to alter the composition of Western Sahara’s population.

Sahrawi women face much of the same cultural and legal discrimination as Moroccan women. Conditions are generally worse for women living in rural areas, where poverty and illiteracy rates are higher.

5TH ANNIVERSARY OF HURRICANE KATRINA

HON. ANH “JOSEPH” CAO

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CAO. Madam Speaker, August 29th of this year will mark five years since the day Hurricane Katrina made landfall along the Gulf Coast. Tragically, 1,822 lives were lost in the states of Louisiana, Mississippi, Florida, Georgia, and Alabama.

As a result of what was one of the greatest disasters this nation has ever seen, more than 1.2 million people were under some type of evacuation order, 3 million were left without electricity for weeks, and hundreds of thousands were left jobless.

Yesterday, with the support of the members from the Louisiana delegation, I introduced a resolution observing the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina’s landfall.

This resolution honors and remembers the lives lost on that fateful day. It also salutes the dedication of those who responded in our darkest hour and those who have stood by our sides during our recovering and rebuilding. We simply could not have done it without the thousands who answered the call and recognized our need. Our rebuilding continues and we take each new challenge one day at a time. We are strong, and we will recover.

On behalf of my constituents in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes and all those across Louisiana and the Gulf Coast, I thank the American people for their generosity and support.

HONORING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, next month the United States celebrates the 90th anniversary of women’s suffrage. On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment gave women in the United States the right to vote, and for 90 years, women have been actively participating in the democratic process.

The battle for women’s suffrage was not an easy one. It took the courage and steadfast leadership of trailblazers like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, and all the women who gathered at Seneca Falls so many decades ago and began advocating for the right to express their views and let their voices be heard at the ballot box.

As we celebrate this important anniversary, I urge women across our great nation to continue taking an active role in the democratic process and politics, and to exercise their right to vote, as they have for so many years.

In March, the House celebrated Women’s History Month and remembered the accomplishments of women in our nation and around the world. August 26th allows us yet another opportunity to celebrate the history of American women and their accomplishments. Today women everywhere are breaking barriers and reaching new heights not only in the political arena, but also the business world,

the fields of medicine and journalism, and in advocacy and human rights. Their contributions shape our society and make a difference every day.

It is unfortunate that in some areas of the world, women continue to struggle for equality and for their right to vote. It is my hope that the lives and work of American women can serve as inspiration to those who continue their struggle for basic rights around the world.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in celebrating the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, and thanking women across the United States for their activism and commitment to keeping the democratic process alive.

HONORING CHERYL O'BRIEN, RECIPIENT OF THE TACOMA-PIERCE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS' 2009 REALTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cheryl O'Brien, the recipient of the Tacoma-Pierce County Association of Realtors' 2009 Realtor of the Year Award.

For 55 years, the Realtor of the Year Award has been the highest honor given to members of the Tacoma-Pierce County Association of Realtors, given in recognition of exceptional performance in the service of the local, state, and national associations of realtors. In earning this award, Ms. O'Brien demonstrated excellent professionalism as well as a commitment to the Realtors' Code of Ethics.

Having worked in real estate for over 20 years, Cheryl O'Brien's success and credibility in the industry were made possible by her honesty, professionalism, and commitment to quality service. In addition to the Tacoma-Pierce County Association of Realtors naming her 2009 Realtor of the Year, Ms. O'Brien has also received the President's Emerald & Silver Awards and the Honor Society Award for Outstanding Service. In providing superior customer service, Ms. O'Brien is guided by important ethical standards and a strong commitment to providing her best to her clients and to the Tacoma-Pierce County region.

The 9th District of Washington is proud to count Ms. O'Brien as a member of our community.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Cheryl O'Brien on her remarkable achievement.

COURAGE COMES SFC RICHARD G. McDOUGLE 901ST MINIMAL CARE DETACHMENT COMBAT MEDIC OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. MARK S. CRITZ

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CRITZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a real American Hero, SFC Richard McDougle from Connellsville Pennsylvania, of the 901st Minimal Care Detachment Combat Medic of the United States Army. Richard has served in the Army for over 16 years, he is a

Medic, a Angel On The Battlefield. Over in Iraq he contracted renal cell cancer, and even though it is in 4th stage, he fights on! With the aid of his wonderful wife Donna, a former Medic herself, he continues his battle each day. Who knows, what child may come from someone he has saved fields of honor. . . . who might one day save the world! His quiet courage and unrelenting faith is an inspiration to us all, and especially to his brothers in arms over at Walter Reed Medical Hospital. We can all learn something from Richard, as he never surrenders! Our prayers are with him and his family. I ask that this poem penned in honor of him and his family, by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD.

COURAGE COMES

Amen!

Courage Comes. . . .

Comes in all shapes and sizes. . . .

All in our fine men and women in uniform, who death defies this. . . .

Who go off to war, as no one denies this. . . . who all in the midst of hell, upon each other so relies this. . . .

All for Brothers In Arms, for them will die this. . . . For there are all kinds of courage, so why this?

How does such Strength In Honor, one find this? From deep inside of ones heart, arises!

From Angels on The Battlefield, are so high this!

Arises, such splendid splendor. . . .

To such hearts of faith so rendered!

As Mac, you are such splendor. . . .

For you went so bravely off to war. . . .

All for your Country Tis of Thee, bore. . . .

And now that you've come home. . . .

As a new battle, a new fight you must own. . . .

All part of the cost of war. . . .

As now Richard, your courageous fight must begin. . . .

Step by Step, Day by Day. . . as your brave heart will not give in. . . .

Will not give way. . . . as for such fine heroes we all now so pray. . . .

All in your quiet courage, your heart so cries out let this war begin!

For a heart of faith and courage, can against all odds so victory so win!

With head held high, as Mac you so wiped all of those tears from your brilliant eyes. . . .

With the kind of courage, that up in Heaven so makes even The Angels sing and cry!

Fight on America's Heroic Son, as we watch in great awe. . . all to what heights your heart can run. . . .

As you us touch with your splendid grace, as your heart of courage brings us to tears and smiles upon our face!

For Heaven so holds a place, for such ones!

When, Courage Comes!

Amen!

MS. KAZIAH HANCOCK AND PROJECT COMPASSION

HON. JASON CHAFFETZ

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CHAFFETZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and to honor Ms. Kaziah Flanck, a true American patriot serving her country in a very unique and special way.

America's heroes come from all walks of life. Many of them, perhaps most, remain unsung heroes as they go quietly about, offering

their service out of love for their country and countrymen with little or no fanfare or recognition.

One such hero is Ms. Hancock. From the bedroom studio of her little goat ranch at the base of Utah's mountains she expresses, through her love of painting, her love and respect for the men and women who have given their lives while serving in uniform. She refers to this effort as Project Compassion.

"It is our view that every fallen hero deserves to be honored and remembered and we will make every effort to that end," Ms. Hancock says on Project Compassion's Web site, herpaintings.com. She and her volunteer team of artists have sent over 1,750 painted portraits of fallen service members to grieving parents and families who live in nearly every state. They're currently seeking to complete at least 3,000 more.

Ms. Hancock asks no price for this touching gift, and won't accept payments offered. She considers her time, time which might have been spent on other paintings she could sell for thousands of dollars, a small sacrifice compared to the sacrifice made by these service members and their families. For those who have already paid the ultimate price, she feels it is the least she can offer. "There is nothing that I'll ever paint, that will be more appreciated than that," she says.

The American Legion Auxiliary, the largest patriotic women's service organization in the world with over 900,000 members, noted in awarding Project Compassion its 2007 Public Service Award: "Project Compassion struck a chord with us: healing through art."

Ms. Kaziah Hancock has struck a chord with me as well. I am honored to have her as a constituent in Utah's Third District, and grateful to join with her in expressing our love and support for the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

HONORING FLORIDA SOUTHERN COLLEGE

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Florida Southern College for celebrating its 125th anniversary. Florida Southern is rapidly rising among the Nation's best private colleges under the leadership of its 17th president, Dr. Anne Kerr.

The Lakeland College enrolls 1832 full-time residential undergraduate students from 44 states and 31 countries. To further its focus on engaged learning, it guarantees every student an internship and study abroad experience. The college also has distinguished graduate programs in business, nursing, and education. Ninety-four percent of students report landing a job in their respective field or furthering their studies at another institution within 3 months of graduation.

The Princeton Review has given Florida Southern its "Best Southeastern College" and "Best Value College" awards in addition to including it on its "Best 366 Colleges" list.

Rounding out its pedigree, the Florida Southern Moccasins have brought home 26 NCAA Division II championships, including 11 in men's golf, 4 in women's golf, and 9 in

baseball. The golf program has been successfully turned several players into members of the PGA Tour, including Rocco Mediate, Lee Janzen, and Jeff Klauk.

Florida Southern has overcome many a hardship to keep its educational dream alive. Since its inception in 1852 when it was founded by the Methodist Conference at the Florida Seminary in Micanopy, Florida Southern has moved four more times before settling into its present location in Lakeland, Florida.

Florida Southern won its charter after moving to Leesburg and awarding its first college degree. At the time, the university went under the name of the Florida Conference College and moved from Leesburg to Sutherland to Clearwater and finally to Lakeland due to devastating freezes hurricanes, a fire and a flu epidemic.

The campus itself is an international treasure, having been designated as a National Historic District due to having the largest collection of Frank Lloyd Wright architecture in the world. Wright's relationship with the college began when Florida Southern's 1938 president Dr. Ludd Spivey invited the internationally-renowned architect to design "a great education temple in Florida." Wright designed 18 structures for the campus, 12 coming into fruition.

In his over 500 completed works, Wright promoted a style he called organic architecture—which aimed to harmonize the building with the natural world around it. In first tour of the Lakeland area, he reportedly envisioned buildings rising "out of the ground, into the light and into the sun." These beautiful and unique buildings have helped make Florida Southern College a top destination for education.

On behalf of Florida's 12th Congressional District, I wish to congratulate President Kerr and the Board of Trustees for leading Florida Southern to such tremendous success. Florida Southern College is well on its way to another stellar 125 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast the recorded votes for rollcall 488, 489, and 490. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" for these measures: H.R. 5850, on agreeing to the Boehner Amendment; H.R. 5850, on agreeing to the Latham Amendment; and H.R. 5850, on agreeing to the Culberson Amendment.

NATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 5143, the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010. I want to commend Rep-

resentative DELAHUNT for his leadership on this legislation and dedication to our nation's criminal justice system.

H.R. 5143 establishes the National Criminal Justice Commission and directs that commission to review all areas of the criminal justice system, including costs, practices, and policies. It also directs the commission to make findings upon their review and recommendations for changes to prevent, deter, and reduce crime and violence, reduce recidivism, improve cost-effectiveness, and ensure interests of justice at every step of the criminal justice system.

As an attorney and former judge, I can say with confidence that I believe our criminal justice system is flawed. It is an expensive system that is in many ways ineffective. It is important that this commission be established and put to work immediately. We can no longer be satisfied with allowing crime to fester and spread throughout the nation, especially among our youth. Real solutions to deter crime are possible if we only take the time to invest in them. It's time we identify the problems in our criminal justice system and make tangible efforts to ameliorate the system.

In our efforts to create "a more perfect union", we have to take a closer look at our nation and work to make our nation better for our children and the generations to follow. H.R. 5143 gives us an opportunity to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support and pass H.R. 5143, the National Criminal Justice Commission Act of 2010.

HONORING THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM IN OAK LAWN

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Children's Museum in Oak Lawn, as its staff and volunteers celebrate the first-year anniversary of the Museum's expansion to a new building.

Since it was first established in 2003, the Museum has become a well-known and much-loved institution in my District. Drawing 10,000 visitors when it first opened its doors, the Museum attracted over 85,000 visitors from over 36 states in the first year at its new location. The Museum gives children and their families an important place for fun and relaxation, while also actively immersing children in the joyful world of learning. The Museum's staff has taken care to align the exhibits with the Illinois Learning Standards required of schools. As a result, over 150 schools have reached out to the Museum to enrich their curricula and take their students on field trips. At a time when evidence increasingly demonstrates that learning environments and enrichment activities in early childhood profoundly affect later life outcomes, the importance of the Museum's work becomes increasingly clear.

From the Museum's beginnings in a small space of 900 square feet, it has grown into an institution that stands as a pillar of Oak Lawn, Illinois' 3rd District, and beyond. I look forward to continuing to work with the Museum's staff, volunteers, and supporters to strengthen the Museum for many years to come. I ask you to join me in congratulating the Children's Mu-

seum in Oak Lawn on its work and the first-year anniversary of its new facilities, as well as to wish it many more years of success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAKING HOME AFFORDABLE ACTS OF 2010

HON. JOHN P. SARBANES

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Making Home Affordable Improvements Act of 2010. For the last eighteen months, the Obama Administration has tried very hard to make mortgage modifications available to struggling homeowners but the program has largely failed to have the impact we had hoped.

Average homeowners around the country are paying the price for an inflated housing market and a bursting real estate bubble—this is being felt acutely throughout Central Maryland. For every borrower who defaults, there are many others on the brink of default who are looking for a way forward.

And this isn't a problem that will go away quickly—an estimated 10 to 15 million Americans own homes that are worth less than they owe on their mortgages. These are homeowners with a strong financial incentive to default on their mortgages, irrespective of their ability to pay.

In a market in which the values of homes have fallen out of step with mortgage debt, I strongly believe that the best solution for homeowners is a structured bankruptcy process, including a judicial mortgage modification or "cramdown." This is the process by which a bankruptcy judge reduces the value of a mortgage attached to a home, thereby reducing the monthly payment owed by the homeowner and allowing families to stay in their homes.

This would be only available to homeowners who elect to file bankruptcy, a lengthy and costly process with long-term consequences for individuals and their families—an avenue of last resort for struggling homeowners, not a new means for speculators to "game the system." The House of Representatives passed legislation to provide bankruptcy judges with this authority, only to watch it die in the Senate. The political reality today is such that judicial mortgage modification may never become an available option for struggling homeowners, leading policy makers to search for an alternative.

Absent judicial modification, I believe that voluntary mortgage modification holds the promise of a better way forward for homeowners, but, as it stands today, it has failed to offer real relief to the millions of homeowners who are in desperate need of assistance. This can be attributed to a widespread unwillingness by banks to do right by their borrowers—the same borrowers who are acting against their financial self-interest by continuing to pay their mortgages each month.

The effort is also hampered, in part, by a bureaucratic and unwieldy modification process—one that is often overwhelming and unmanageable for the average homeowner. But working within the voluntary mortgage modification structure created by the White House as part of the Making Home Affordable Initiative, there are thousands of experts across the

country who are counseling homeowners on how to navigate this process.

These expert counselors are too often the last line of defense between a struggling homeowner and a lender seeking to foreclose and cast families out of their homes. Sadly, they do not have the resources they need to help the staggering number homeowners in crisis—a number projected to rise significantly in the coming months.

That is why I am introducing the Making Home Affordable Improvements Act—legislation that will direct funding designated for the big banks, as part of the Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP), to the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling Program.

Federal foreclosure mitigation funding has enabled housing and mortgage experts to work with homeowners to avoid foreclosure, offering counsel on budgeting and planning as well as offering assistance in negotiating mortgage modifications with servicers. With this new funding, comes more stringent demands on banks, financial servicers and counselors.

The Making Home Affordable Improvements Act seeks to achieve two goals. First, for counselors working with borrowers struggling to stay in their homes, this legislation provides a small, lump-sum payment for each temporary trial modification arranged. But the ultimate goal must be either a permanent modification of the terms of their mortgage or an orderly, foreclosure-free exit from their homes. Unfortunately, there has been a substantial disconnect between the number of temporary agreements made between borrowers and servicers and the number of homeowners that ultimately receive permanent relief. That is why this legislation places a priority on permanent modification by providing counselors with a greater incentive to see these borrowers through to the end.

Because we have struggled to get access to meaningful data on the mortgage modifications performed by financial servicers, this legislation also requires regular, public disclosures by participating servicers.

Madam Speaker, this is not a perfect solution and I hope we will continue to look for ways to restore the authority for judges to modify mortgages through the bankruptcy process. But, in the meantime, lenders and servicers can and must do more to help struggling homeowners stay in their homes. By providing additional resources for mortgage modification counselors, we can provide expert assistance to struggling homeowners who are seeking an equitable agreement with their lender.

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA'S MAJORETTES ON WINNING THE 2010 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. PAUL C. BROWN

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I, along with Congressman JACK KINGSTON rise today to congratulate the Majorettes from our Alma Mater, the University of Georgia on winning the 2010 National Collegiate Championship.

It is often stated in Athens that “there is nothing finer in the land, than the Georgia Redcoat Marching Band” and the fact that our Majorettes have brought home yet another championship make that statement all the more true.

At every football game, whether home or away, these thirteen young women perform alongside the band, contributing to the pride and spirit of everyone who wears the Red and Black. They can also be seen at community events, pep rallies, and various sporting venues.

Their commitment to excellence and success is indicative of what the University as a whole strives for, to provide an avenue for young people to reach their fullest potential. We, along with the rest of the Bulldawg Nation, commend these young ladies on their achievement and wish them well in all their future endeavors.

Go Dawgs!

HONORING THE 120TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL DEPOSITORY LIBRARY AT THE HOYT LIBRARY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. KILDEE. Madam Speaker, on August 12th the Hoyt Library in Saginaw Michigan will celebrate their 120th anniversary as a Federal Depository Library. One of the oldest Federal Depository Libraries in the United States, the Hoyt Library is the only Federal Depository Library in Saginaw County and one of three Depository Libraries in Michigan's 5th Congressional District. The Hoyt Library is one of five branches in the Saginaw Public Library system.

Saginaw native, Congressman Aaron T. Bliss, initiated the designation and the first publications started to arrive from the Government Printing Office during the summer in anticipation of the Library's opening on November 1, 1890. Congressman Bliss's correspondence regarding the designation is available for viewing at the Library. Harriet Ames was the first Head Librarian and the first Government Documents Librarian. A representative of the Government Printing Office will attend the open house to celebrate their 120 year partnership.

The Library has copies of documents from all three branches of government: the legislative, the executive and the judicial. Copies of the Congressional Record, federal statutes, federal court decisions, Department publications and the documents of independent agencies can be found at the Library. For the past 120 years, the Hoyt Library has provided the public with the opportunity to view and read historical documents. The Hoyt Library contains some of the oldest documents available at a Federal Depository Library.

Madam Speaker, Hoyt Library has continuously provided service to the residents of Saginaw since 1890. Under the leadership of current Head Librarian, Trish Burns, and Anne Birkam, Depository Librarian, library patrons are able to read about the proceedings of Congress, and Supreme Court decisions, and obtain information, and forms for government

programs. The Federal Depository at the Hoyt Library is a valuable community asset and I ask the House of Representatives to join me in applauding their work of the past 120 years.

HONORING JAMES W. CONSIDINE, JR.

HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor James W. Considine, Jr., a devoted husband, father, grandfather, son, brother and uncle and to mourn him upon his passing at the age of 72.

Born on May 3, 1938, James Considine, Jr. spent his life in Michigan residing in Detroit and West Bloomfield before making his home in Milford. James lived a devoutly faithful life and genuinely loved serving the Lord and the Catholic church.

On July 29, 2010, James Considine, Jr. passed from this earthly world to his eternal reward. James will be deeply missed by his wife of 49 years, Frances “Claire”. He will long be remembered as a father devoted to his beloved daughters, Lisa and Linda and his treasured son James III. James leaves a legacy in his 8 grandchildren and his sisters, Carrie, Catherine, Jane and Linda. He is survived by several nieces, nephews and many dear friends. James was a wonderful man, kind to all he encountered. He will be truly and sorrowfully missed.

Madam Speaker, during his lifetime, James Considine, Jr. enriched the lives of everyone around him. There is no doubt that James was a beacon of joy, hope and inspiration to those who knew him. As we bid farewell to this exceptional man, I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning his passing and honoring his life.

RECOGNIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NEEL PARIKH AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION'S 2010 SULLIVAN AWARD

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Pierce County Library System Executive Director Neel Parikh, who the American Library Association has named the recipient of the 2010 Sullivan Award. I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Ms. Parikh.

The American Library Association's Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children is presented annually to an individual who demonstrates an extraordinary capacity to support and enrich children through public library services. The Award highlights individuals who demonstrate exceptional understanding and support of public library service for children and produce the best projects and partnerships that help public libraries provide for young learners.

It is a privilege to commend Neel Parikh, Executive Director of the Pierce County Library System, as the recipient of the 2010 Sullivan Award. Ms. Parikh originally studied to

become a South Asia specialist, while simultaneously working as a children's librarian at the Berkeley Public Library in Berkeley, California. However, after finding her true passion with the public library, Ms. Parikh changed her educational focus to library science and has since been serving as a librarian and administrator in Pierce County.

Ms. Parikh has become a leader in providing early learning, training, and support for families, childcare providers, and library staff both locally and across the state. While Parikh believes that early learning is a critical service for all public libraries, she maintains that teen services are equally important. She supported Pierce County Library System in becoming one of the first Libraries of Promise, which seeks to encourage people to build the character and competence of children by providing them access to additional educational outlets.

Ms. Parikh's leadership as a strong community collaborator is a testament to her success for advancing early learning forward throughout Pierce County. She has collaborated with social service organizations, schools, and community leaders to build services for young learners.

Ms. Parikh is a founding member and chair of the Early Learning Public Library Partnership, a consortium created with the vision that public libraries are full, essential partners in the early learning movement in Washington State. The consortium puts public libraries at the table with other early learning organizations. Under her leadership, the partnership has grown to include 27 public libraries across the state.

In addition to her library responsibilities, Ms. Parikh has been active in the Association for Library Service to Children, served on the Public Library Association Board of Directors, and held a seat on the Executive Committee of the Washington Library Association.

Parikh is the seventh winner of this award, provided by former American Library Association President Peggy Sullivan.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Neel Parikh on this impressive achievement, and celebrate her commitment to furthering children's education through positive library experiences.

DOD AND DEBT/DEFICIT

HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today because we can no longer afford to ignore defense spending as our deficit rises.

The unprecedented federal stimulus package and two wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have put the FY 2009 federal deficit at 10 percent of GDP, its highest level since 1945.

As the federal deficit grows and we look for places to cut, we must be able to scrutinize every part of the federal budget—including defense spending.

Defense spending has more than doubled since September 11, 2001, and at \$719 billion, the current defense budget, is the highest it has been since World War II.

Our discretionary spending has also grown by \$583 billion since 2001, and defense spending accounts for 65 percent of that growth.

Accounting for close to 20 percent of the federal budget, defense spending simply cannot be ignored as we look for places to cut.

For too long we have followed policies that assume more spending automatically means more safety and more power.

But new critics of this unquestioned defense spending argue cuts to the defense budget can and should be made; and these cuts can be done without compromising our safety.

A new report by the Sustainable Defense Task Force, comprising security experts from across the country, finds that we could save up to \$960 billion over the next ten years, without jeopardizing our national security.

The report outlines a whole menu of reform options ranging from reducing our oversized nuclear stockpiles to cutting our bloated force structure in Europe and Asia—all of which are possible due to the U.S.'s current security posture: We no longer face the traditional opponents we once did.

We still operate as if we are at war with an opponent as powerful as the former Soviet Union; but today the U.S. does not face a threat that even remotely compares to the Soviet Union.

Not even China, which spends barely one-fifth as much on military as the U.S., can compete.

The U.S. spends more on research and development than Russia does on its whole military.

Today, the U.S. spends more than two and half times as much on its military as the group of potential opponents, including Russia and China.

In other words, the U.S. could cut its defense spending in half and we would still be spending more than our current and potential adversaries.

As the Task Force points out in its report, our military strength far out-weighs any threat from our adversaries, and can easily be reduced while still maintaining our military superiority.

However, while we are building up our capacity to fight traditional opponents, such as China, we are failing to build a defense force capable of combating nontraditional opponents such as Al Qaeda.

We have spent \$1 trillion and lost 5,500 American lives on large-scale military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan with little progress to show for it.

As Benjamin Friedman, of the Cato Institute, points out, our principal enemy Al Qaeda "has no army, no air force and no navy."

And the military assets most useful for counterterrorism are relatively inexpensive such as surveillance technologies, special operations forces and drones.

As the threats to America evolve, so too must our military structure.

But over the years, rather than realigning our military to meet current threats, we have simply added more requirements to our military, growing our defense budget by 9 percent on average every year.

There has never been a better time to reinvent our defense budget.

We are facing a growing deficit, forcing us to make cuts, and we have a defense budget ripe for reform.

Now all we need is the political will to make tough choices.

With limited resources we must choose, because the real ramification of overspending on

defense is not simply that we will have too many unnecessary ships, aircrafts or missiles—but that we won't have enough resources to support vital domestic investments such as health care, education, and infrastructure needed to remain a superpower.

Military power is not simply about spending more than our adversaries.

Real military power, argues Kori Schake, a top foreign policy advisor for John McCain, is "fundamentally premised on the solvency of the American government and the vibrancy of the U.S. economy."

But in order to maintain that vibrancy we must get our fiscal house in order, and in doing so reexamine our defense spending and make cuts and reforms where necessary.

Secretary Gates said it best while paraphrasing President Eisenhower, "The United States should spend as much as necessary on national defense, but not one penny more."

Let's hold him to his word. Let's reinvent the defense budget.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL DANCE DAY ON JULY 31

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating National Dance Day on July 31.

National Dance Day, in the Nation's Capital and throughout the United States, will celebrate dance as an artistic form and will promote the health benefits of dance. Here in the Nation's Capital, I will be joined by "So You Think You Can Dance" co-creator, executive producer, and judge Nigel Lythgoe, by Dominique Dawes, the well-known U.S. Olympic gymnast and a member of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition, and by the Dizzy Feet Foundation to promote dance as an avenue for physical fitness. Our partners, in addition to the President's Council, and Dizzy Feet, include the Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Dance Association, and the National Council of Negro Women.

In addition to being an art form, dance can be an aerobic activity that helps to improve heart health, strengthen muscles, increase flexibility, and burn calories. Our country has a national adult and childhood overweight and obesity epidemic. Keeping with the spirit of the First Lady's "Let's Move!" initiative to combat childhood obesity and the work of the President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition, we will promote physical activity among children and adults, and have fun dancing, the exercise that many of us most enjoy!

On July 31, we will gather on the National Mall from 3 to 7 p.m. to watch, learn and dance, and to recognize dance expression, with "Flash Dance" instructors, Fluria Flammenco, Step Afrika, Beat Ya Feet Kings, Capitol Movement Project, DCypher, Bancker Ball Room Dancing Club, and many more. We will encourage physically active lifestyles by promoting all forms of dance for physical fitness.

Madam Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating National Dance Day on July 31.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 5987, THE
SENIORS PROTECTION ACT OF 2010

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. POMEROY. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Seniors Protection Act of 2010, H.R. 5987. I am honored to be joined by many of my colleagues who have heard from senior citizens back home about the pressing need for Congress to provide this relief in light of the widely held expectation that there will be no increase in Social Security benefits for a second year in a row. The legislation would ensure that seniors, veterans and people with disabilities who receive Social Security and similar federal benefits receive a one-time \$250 payment in the event that no cost-of-living-adjustment (COLA) is announced this fall.

Seniors did not cause the near meltdown of the economy that occurred in the last days of the prior Administration, yet too many are still feeling the brunt of its fallout. This bill would help seniors across the country who face the likely possibility that on October 15th, the Social Security Administration will announce for the first time ever—as a result of a long-standing statutory formula—that there will not be a COLA in Social Security benefits in back-to-back years.

The failed economic policies of the prior Administration left the nation in such a deep recession that, for the first time since automatic COLAs began in 1975, recipients of Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans Administration Pension and Disability Compensation, and Railroad Retirement benefits did not receive a COLA in January of this year.

Social Security benefit levels are quite modest—only \$14,000 a year for the average retiree. Yet, the median income for senior households is a mere \$24,000, reflecting just how much Social Security means to most elderly Americans. Six in ten seniors rely on Social Security for more than half of their income. About a third of retirees have little other than Social Security to live on.

Although economy-wide measures of inflation have shown no net increase since the last COLA, which reflected price levels in the third quarter of 2008, Medicare premiums and health care costs have continued to rise. Moreover, seniors' other sources of income have weakened as a result of the economic downturn: the financial collapse reduced the value of their IRAs; interest rates are low, reducing income from seniors' savings; and the housing crash reduced seniors' home equity. The one-time \$250 payment for retirees and other beneficiaries would represent less than two percent of the average annual Social Security benefit.

Seniors who depend on their very modest Social Security benefits worry about meeting their basic day-to-day expenses. I have heard these concerns from seniors in my district and from Members of Congress who are hearing these same worries from their seniors. I am pleased those Members are joining me in introducing the Seniors Protection Act of 2010. Democrats are honoring America's commitment to protect the purchasing power of seniors' Social Security benefits.

For 75 years, and through 13 recessions, Social Security has been a steady and reliable

source of income—never a day late nor a dollar short. And since 1975, when Congress implemented automatic COLAs, recipients of Social Security have been able to maintain purchasing power over time. Social Security is often the only source of retirement income that is fully protected against the corrosive effects of inflation.

This bill is responsive to seniors and responsible to taxpayers. My colleagues and I are committed to fiscal responsibility and will ensure that the Seniors Protection Act of 2010 shall not cause an increase in the federal deficit. When the bill comes to the House floor it will include the necessary offsets to comply with the PAYGO law.

The legislation is supported by seniors. With regard to this legislation, our former colleague Barbara Kennelly, President of the National Committee to Protect Social Security and Medicare said:

For the millions of seniors who rely upon Social Security as their only source of income, and millions more who rely upon it for at least half of their income, a one-time payment to make up for the lack of a COLA is not a luxury, it's a necessity. I applaud the Members of the Congress who understand that helping seniors maintain their purchasing power for necessities like health care, fuel and food, not only improves their quality of life but also helps the local economy.

AARP Senior Vice President Drew Nannis offered the following statement:

For over three decades, millions of Americans have counted on annual increases in their Social Security checks to help make ends meet. This year, 41 million older Americans did not receive a Social Security COLA, the first time since automatic Social Security adjustments went into effect in 1975.

This relief will put money in the pockets of millions of older Americans struggling to make ends meet—money likely to be injected directly into our fragile economy.

Edward F. Coyle, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans said:

Seniors are struggling to get by. \$250 may not seem like much on Wall Street, but to retirees on Main Street it could be what allows them to pay their electric bill or buy groceries. We must make sure Social Security meets today's basic needs.

I urge my colleagues to stand up for seniors and support the Senior Protection Act of 2010.

MS. BARBARA YARBOUGH'S 50TH
YEAR OF SERVICE AT MIDLAND
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CONAWAY. Madam Speaker, I always enjoy being able to share stories about the great people of District 11 with my colleagues. Today, I would like to share the story of Barbara Yarbough, a treasured citizen of Midland, Texas, who I am privileged to represent in this House.

Barbara grew up in what many of us would consider difficult circumstances. Orphaned at the age of eight, she and her younger brother spent four years homeless until an Aunt took them in. Her Aunt encouraged her to go to college, telling her that if she graduated, she could do anything.

I do not know if Barbara's Aunt knew then how right she would be, but I am proud to say that Barbara has accomplished everything one individual could hope to in a life devoted to serving the communities she has called home.

In Midland, Barbara is a living legend. For almost forty years, she taught two generations of Midlanders, serving as an advisor, a confidant, a cheerleader, a mentor, and a friend to every student who sat in her classroom. After retiring from teaching, Barbara tackled new challenges, and now works as a parent liaison in the Midland school district. Through this office, she works with parents and families, offering counseling, advice, parenting classes, health information, and support for parents when they have needed it the most.

I expect that most every community has someone like Barbara; someone who works nearly as hard or touches almost as many lives. I imagine that every member of Congress I serve with can think of someone that might compare. But, I know that I represent the one and only Barbara Yarbough. She is a singular individual, a truly unique soul, who my community is blessed to be able to call our own. She is also a near and dear friend to me, who I am honored to be able to brag on here today.

This August, Barbara celebrates 50 years of serving the students, parents, and employees of the Midland Independent School District. I would like to offer my humblest gratitude to her for her five decades of service and her genuine, unwavering, and unflinching concern for the people of Midland. She has been and will continue to be a friend to many and a servant to all.

May God bless her as she has blessed us.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE-
MAKING REGARDING "GAINFUL
EMPLOYMENT"

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express serious concerns regarding the Department of Education's recent Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding "gainful employment."

As it is currently proposed, the Department's approach will lead to serious educational capacity cutbacks in critically important fields such as nursing and education and will disproportionately affect low-income and minority students.

Today, 2.8 million students attend career colleges. Seventy-six percent of these students live independently, without parental support. Sixty-three percent are 24 years old or older. Fifty-four percent delayed postsecondary education after high school. Forty-seven percent have dependent children, and almost one-third of these students are single parents.

The Department's suggested approach will disproportionately harm these nontraditional and lower-income students who have no choice but to rely on student loans to pursue a postsecondary education and need the flexibility career colleges provide.

On May 18, I along with thirteen of my colleagues were assured during a meeting with

Secretary Duncan that our concerns would be taken into account, but thus far, I have difficulty believing that that was anything more than a facade. The proposal does not reflect our previously stated concerns and recent discussions indicate that rather than a productive dialogue with the administration, Members will receive little more than a formal response once the rule is set in stone.

The "gainful employment" provision has been in statute since 1965, why is there this sudden rush to get this done by a drop, dead certain date? We all agree that both tax payer funds and students' best interests should be protected, but rushing into a blanket approach that will limit student access to higher education and fails to adequately address problem institutions, is irresponsible.

Throughout this process, I have been trying to gain a better understanding of what exactly it is that the Department wants to address.

If it is unreasonable amounts of student debt, well, I agree that is a concern. Let's then have a frank conversation on student debt, but it is not only the institutions that are responsible. Students, lenders, policy makers, as well as institutions must be part of this process and must be held accountable.

However, what student debt has to do with "gainful employment" is beyond me. Let's not kid ourselves; there is no connection between debt and future income and "gainful employment." As any young Capitol Hill staffer will tell you, salary is no indication of the quality of their job.

I agree with the existing statute and the Department of Education that certificate and vocational programs should lead students to better employment. It is therefore shocking that there is no mention of job placement, professional certification passing rates, employer verification, or anything else job-related in determining an institution's effectiveness.

Madam Speaker, I encourage Secretary Duncan and the individuals in the Department of Education who are writing these regulations to visit some of the schools in my District to see for themselves the commendable job they are doing at providing professional opportunities to students who would otherwise not have them.

Higher education needs more competition and more capacity to expand access, improve quality, and prepare the 21st century workforce, not less. The Department's suggested approach detracts from the ability of deserving Americans to compete in the global economy.

I strongly urge the Department of Education to abandon this foolish proposal and go back to the drawing board. Members of Congress such as myself are ready and willing to work with the Department and other interested parties to ensure that we better protect our students and improve the quality and accessibility of educational opportunities across all sectors of our educational system.

HONORING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's Korean War Vet-

erans and their service to the United States on the 60th anniversary of the Korean War.

On June 24th, 2010 the Department of Defense marked the beginning of a three year observance period for the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. I commend the Secretary of Defense for choosing to honor the sacrifices of our Korean War veterans. The American men and women who served in the Korean Theater sacrificed at great cost to protect our national security by preventing the expansion of communism on the Korean Peninsula. The legacy of their efforts is the democratic freedom enjoyed by the people of South Korea. The collective cost to the United States was terribly high, including more than 36,000 killed, 92,000 wounded, 7,000 taken prisoner of war, and 8,000 missing in action.

Our country owes all veterans of this conflict a great debt for their service.

H.R. 5962, THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS ACT

HON. DANIEL B. MAFFEI

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. MAFFEI. Madam Speaker, no one likes to pay taxes. The people in my district and all throughout our country work hard to make a living, and especially in tough economic times, it is difficult to give up a portion of that hard-earned money. But, most citizens also appreciate that our taxes allow us to have the country we do—our taxes allow us to send our children to school, to keep our country safe, to provide Social Security, and to maintain our way of life.

In the words of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "Taxes, after all, are dues that we pay for the privileges of membership in an organized society."

Yet, while many of our hard-working citizens understand this fact, they do not understand why our current tax code is riddled with loopholes. They don't like that certain people and certain industries—especially those with high-paid lobbyists and heavy influence in Washington—get special breaks. They do not understand why some people and some companies get out of paying their fair share of taxes, or why we reward companies with tax breaks for sending jobs overseas.

The worst of these special breaks allow companies to take advantage of U.S. tax deductions on income they make overseas. It actually rewards companies for taking business—and jobs—out of our country and sending them to China or India or elsewhere. Under current law, corporations can defer taxes on business income they earn through foreign companies while they take deductions related to that income when they pay U.S. taxes. In effect, we are encouraging corporations to ship jobs overseas—and then telling the American taxpayer to give them a special tax break! Not only is this provision unfair to taxpayers, it is unfair to companies that keep their operations in the U.S. and try to preserve American jobs.

Those are the businesses that employ our hard-working citizens and keep our economy afloat. Those businesses look at our complicated tax code and cannot understand why their competitors that ship jobs overseas are

favorable with special breaks. And they don't understand why the United States has a higher corporate tax rate than most other industrialized nations—which brings me to my second point. At the same time we're creating loopholes for some, we're putting our entire business community at a competitive disadvantage in the worldwide market.

China's corporate tax rate is 25%.

The United Kingdom's corporate tax rate is 28%.

Japan's corporate tax rate is 30%.

The United States' top marginal corporate tax rate? 35%.

The bill I'm proposing today aims to fix both of these problems. First, it will eliminate the irresponsible tax loopholes that only benefit certain sectors of certain industries. One loophole my bill closes, for instance, currently allows foreign corporations to avoid paying taxes on income they earn in the United States by funneling the money through different countries where we have tax treaties. This misuse must stop. We must strive to make our tax system fairer.

And secondly, I do not believe that the revenue raised by closing these loopholes should just be thrown back into the federal budget. Instead, I think we should use this revenue to help boost the competitiveness of our entire business community, by sharply reducing our corporate tax rate, to 23%. This is a major tax cut that would allow companies from upstate New York and around the country to better compete in the global economy—and it would ensure that all companies benefit, not just those with good lobbyists. Between revenue raised by closing these egregious tax loopholes and added economic stimulus of lower corporate tax rates, this legislation provides a good balance.

This competitive tax rate will give us back an edge—an edge over China and other countries whose tax laws have attracted corporations to move American jobs overseas in the first place. Our taxpayers, our businesses and our country deserve better, and this bill is a crucial first step toward making our tax system fairer for everyone.

A BILL TO ENSURE BETTER ECONOMIC DATA IS COLLECTED FOR THE TERRITORIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. BORDALLO. Madam Speaker, today I have introduced a bill to require the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis of the Department of Commerce to publish certain economic data regarding territories and freely associated States, and for other purposes. This bill is timely and important to the economic growth of our insular areas. I want to thank the ranking member of my subcommittee, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, for being an original co-sponsor. Additionally, I would like to thank my colleagues Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA of American Samoa, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Mr. PIERLUISI of Puerto Rico, Mr. HONDA of California, Mr. SERRANO of New York, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Ms. HIRONO of Hawaii have joined on as original co-sponsors.

The first section of this bill requires the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) to publish annual reports on the gross domestic product (GDP) for the U.S. Territories of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands (USVI), as well as for the three Freely Associated States (FAS) for which the United States has entered into a Compact of Free Association. The three FAS are the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (ROP). The economic data that the BEA promulgates and publishes are important for states and our country. These statistics are used by federal, state, and local governments for budget development and projections; by the Federal Reserve for monetary policy; by the private sector for planning and investment; and by the American public to follow and understand the performance of the national economy.

Historically, the BEA has not encompassed the U.S. Territories in its Regional Economic Accounts or as part of its annual State GDP reports. Until last year, a formalized, uniform and federal framework for estimating the GDP in the U.S. Territories did not exist. In March 2009, the BEA and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) at the U.S. Department of the Interior entered into a formal agreement to develop such a framework and federally assist the U.S. territories in developing and producing annual (GDP) statistics for their respective jurisdictions. The agreement established these efforts as the "Statistical Improvement Program" (SIP) and OIA financed it under its discretionary budget at \$1.6 million over a period of 18 months (March 2009–September 2010). The results were unveiled this year, and the bill I have introduced today would direct BEA to permanently continue its efforts in estimating the GDP for these jurisdictions as part of its existing program and resources so that this important work continues.

The second section of this bill amends the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (CNRA), Public Law 110–229, for the purpose of implementation of the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program and other provisions. The interim final rule issued by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security last year limited the full administration of the new Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver program and it did not fulfill the Congressional intent, established under the law. Secretary Napolitano used her discretionary parole authority to allow travel of certain visitors only to the CNMI. While this was an important action to preserve the CNMI economy, it did not fulfill the intent of a new joint visa waiver program.

Given that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is in the process of issuing a final rule regarding the joint Guam-Visa Waiver Program, this bill is timely and essential in preserving the regional economy of Guam and the CNMI. Most importantly the bill requires the Secretary of DHS to "provide for an alternative procedure" to achieve the benefits that formal inclusion of countries determined to have had significant economic benefit in the CNMI would otherwise bring under the Guam-Northern Mariana Islands Visa Waiver Program. The bill does not specify or give definition to a scope of possible "alternative procedures;" it leaves it to the discretion of the Secretary of DHS. This is important to the economy of the Western Pacific, as tourism remains our largest industry.

I look forward to working with my colleagues as this bill moves forward in the legislative process.

HONORING THE WORK OF THE NISQUALLY LAND TRUST

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nisqually Land Trust and their exceptional efforts to address the Northwest's continuously challenging coastal issues.

The Coastal America Partnership awarded the Nisqually Land Trust and its Red Salmon Restoration Team partners with the 13th Annual 2010 Coastal America Spirit Award. This national award was given in recognition of the Red Salmon Restoration Team's restoration of salmon and migratory bird habitat located in the Land Trust's Red Salmon Creek Management Unit in the Nisqually River Delta.

In partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Nisqually Tribe, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Veterans Conservation Corps, Nisqually Stream Stewards, Pierce County Stream Team, Intel Corporation, and various school groups, the Nisqually Land Trust has provided superior leadership in protecting, preserving, and restoring the region's coastal resources and ecosystems.

Established in 1992, the Coastal America Partnership is a coalition of Federal agencies, State and local governments, and private organizations that work to protect, preserve, and restore the nation's coasts. Coastal America regional teams have initiated more than 700 restoration protection projects in 26 states, restoring thousands of acres of wetlands and protecting critical habitats.

Continuing the tradition of preserving the region's coasts and wetlands, the Nisqually Land Trust manages and protects over 2700 acres of land and habitat within the Nisqually Watershed. In addition, the Land Trust and its partners have been successful in permanently protecting 71 percent of the river's salmon-producing shoreline. As these efforts have helped to ensure the continued health and sustainable population of the Pacific Northwest Native Wild Salmon, it is clear why Coastal America selected this effort for its Spirit Award.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Nisqually Land Trust on its excellent work to protect and manage the critical wildlife and habitat areas of the Nisqually River Delta.

RECOGNIZING SCHERTZ TALES MAGAZINE

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Schertz Tales Magazine, the monthly publication of the City of Schertz, which was recently honored with four international 'Awards of Distinction' at the 2010 Communicator Awards announced by the

International Academy of the Visual Arts in New York City, New York.

Schertz's award-winning entries consisted of the July 2008 Magazine Cover; billboard design for the 2008 Festival of Angels event; poster ad for Artz '09; and overall design for the Artz exhibit.

Schertz' newsletter, founded in the mid-1980's, has evolved over the years into the popular monthly Schertz Tales Magazine format. Patterned after successful travel magazines and Texas-centric human interest publications, Schertz Tales Magazine's design reflects its namesake city's acclaimed quality-of-life and can-do spirit. Publisher Brad E. Bailey and his team have shaped the publication to offer important city news and business information while sharing interesting character profiles and local stories.

Schertz Tales Magazine serves a vibrant, fast-growing community that does not have the tradition of a local newspaper, radio station or other source of news and, yet, fills that void effectively. In fact, Schertz Tales Magazine's transformation from newsletter to an internationally acclaimed metropolitan magazine mirrors the emergence of Schertz from a small town founded by German immigrants to one of the premier communities in the State of Texas. Backed by the creative genius of Graphic Designer Alexis Souza, the magazine continues to evolve and grow.

With thousands of entries received from across the U.S. and around the world, the Communicator Awards program is the largest and most competitive awards event honoring creative excellence for communications professionals. Current International Academy of the Visual Arts membership represents a "Who's Who" of acclaimed media, advertising, and marketing firms.

Current and past staff members involved in the award-winning Schertz Tales Magazine include: Leslie Hernandez, Advertising Sales Manager; Mary A. Spence, Business Manager; Jessica Robinson, Event Coordinator; Chuck McCollough, Editor and Writer; and Chris Matzenbacher, Advertising Sales Director. City of Schertz City Manager Don Taylor, Assistant City Managers David J. Harris and John Bierschwale and the entire City Staff can be proud of the recognition bestowed through the IAVA.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had this time to recognize the Schertz Tales Magazine, a valued and recently awarded news source.

LOCAL COLLEGE TAKES NATIONAL BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the women's bowling team of a college located in my district, Webber International University. In their inaugural year as a team, the Lady Warriors took home the 2010 United States Bowling Congress Intercollegiate Bowling National Championship.

The United States Bowling Congress Intercollegiate Bowling National Championship was held this year in El Paso, Texas on April 15 through April 17. The tournament pitted together teams from NCAA Division I, II, III, and NAIA colleges.

I want to acknowledge what an accomplishment it is for the Lady Warriors to bring home the championship title on their first year in competition. This feat has not been done since 1975. To reach this, the Webber team first defeated a team from Robert Morris College twice in the semifinals. Advancing from there, the Lady Warriors claimed the championship over the team from McKendree University. The final round ended in a 2–1 victory in a best out of three series.

The team's anchor, Hayley Beavis, was later named the National Tournament MVP. This victory is extra sweet for her because she sprained her ankle a week before the tournament in training and was unsure if she was even going to compete. Teammate Ashley Galante was named as a National Collegiate Bowling Coaches Association Honorable Mention All-American for the season. They were both backed by the strong contributions from fellow teammates Yoselin Leon Garcia, Stephanie Martins, Jessica Santiago, Katie Thoronton, and Brittney Mari. The team was coached by Head Coach Randy Stoughton and assistant coaches Joe Slowinski and Del Warren.

The same team later received the Polk County Female Collegiate Team of the Year Award. This is the first team from Webber International University to receive such an award. The Polk County All Sports Award is meant to honor the areas best high school, college, and professional athletes.

Established in 1927, Webber International University hosts just over 600 undergraduate and postgraduate students. Supported by 45 faculty members, this Babson Park institution not only achieves excellence in sport, but their long tradition of superb education.

On behalf of Florida's 12th Congressional District, I wish to congratulate Hayley Beavis, Ashley Galante, and the whole Lady Warriors team.

HONORING MICHELLE STAUFFER

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Michelle Stauffer upon her retirement from Wawona School.

Mrs. Michelle Stauffer has spent the past 29 years serving as a teaching principal at Wawona School; a kindergarten through sixth grade, one-room elementary school in Yosemite National Park. Wawona School has been serving the children that live in the park since the late 1800's. Park rangers, firefighters and other National Park Service employees rely on this community school, and Mrs. Stauffer, to educate and nurture their children. During its existence, the school has educated the children of many Yosemite pioneer families, including the Washburn, Bruce and Gordon families.

Mrs. Stauffer is dedicated to providing a solid education for the students. Field trips to Washington D.C., museums, live theater and the San Francisco Opera are part of the curriculum at Wawona School. Mrs. Stauffer believes these field trips are an important part of exposing her students to life outside of the park.

Mrs. Stauffer is an extraordinary person and educator. She is dedicated to the Yosemite community and especially to her students. She is committed to providing her students with the very best education in the most nurturing environment possible.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Michelle Stauffer for her dedicated service to the student of Wawona School. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mrs. Stauffer many years of continued success.

PREVENTING SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD ACT OF 2010

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the "Preventing Social Security Fraud Act of 2010." This bill will reduce the Social Security Disability backlog by punishing insurance companies that force policyholders to fraudulently apply for disability benefits.

The initial application backlog for Social Security Disability will be more than 1 million applicants by October. The disability hearing backlog sits at an average of 446 days with 718,000 people waiting for a hearing.

Despite these staggering numbers, a handful of bad actors in the insurance industry force individuals who are capable of working to apply for disability benefits, and when denied, forces them to appeal the decision again and again.

These companies do this because it benefits them financially. Each application in the disability process lowers the company's cash reserve requirement. The companies also know that if one of their policyholders happens to hit the jackpot and receive Social Security benefits, then the insurer can lower its monthly payout to the policyholder by that amount.

Nevermind that these individual policyholders must certify under threat of fine or imprisonment when applying for benefits that their claim is legitimate. The policyholder is forced to take all the risk, while the insurer wins either way.

The legislation I am introducing today requires insurers to certify to the Social Security Administration that a claim is legitimate when it forces a policyholder to apply for Social Security Disability. It is important that we protect the right of all Americans to apply for these benefits and appeal legitimate claims.

This bill in no way threatens that system. For those who apply for disability on their own, nothing changes. For those who are forced by their insurers, I merely ask that the insurer take the same oath required of their policyholder and stand by the claim.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

SUPPORT FOR THE REUNIFICATION OF CYPRUS

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I wish to speak today about an injustice that has been taking place in Cyprus for the last 36 years.

In 1974, when hostilities broke out on the small island, Turkey began its military occupation of more than one-third of Cypriot land.

Nearly ten years later, the Turks declared this land to be the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus". To this day, the only country to recognize this declaration is Turkey, which still illegally occupies the northern part of Cyprus.

Currently there are about 36,000 Turkish troops occupying the North of Cyprus. They stand as a physical manifestation of the barrier Turkey is putting up against Cypriot reunification.

Turkey has made other efforts to discourage reunification. According to the Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Turkey has deliberately and continuously modified the demographics of the island, and they have enacted a system of "naturalization" that encourages mainland Turks to move to Cyprus.

This occupation is made all the more tragic by its needlessness. Thirteen million Turkish-Cypriots and Greek-Cypriots have crossed into each others communities without incident. They seek to live together as neighbors in countries to which they have emigrated. There is no reason for these peoples to be divided.

We have reason to be hopeful—Turkish and Greek Cypriot leaders have been engaged in UN-sponsored negotiations since September 2008 to reunify the island.

The United States has an important role to play in the reunification of Cyprus. We must ensure that we are doing all we can to make the island unified once more by working with the European Union, Turkey, and all citizens of Cyprus toward a peaceful and fair resolution of this decades-old conflict.

HONORING ERICA CHALKLEY

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and express gratitude to Erica Chalkley, who dedicated herself in my Washington, D.C. office to serving the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District for nearly three years. In that time, she distinguished herself as a talented young woman who dedicates herself unswervingly to her career, colleagues, and family.

Madam Speaker, it's tough enough to lose the only other Duck in my Washington, D.C. office. But much more than that, Erica brought an enthusiasm and positive attitude every day that will be sorely missed. Countless Oregonians have walked through the doors of my Washington, D.C. office and been greeted first by Erica, who made them feel at home during their visit. I received many exuberant "thank you" notes over the past few years that specifically mentioned how grateful they were for Erica's hospitality and charm.

In a sense, what they were really saying is that Erica made their experience in our nation's capital even better. That's no small feat. In a city with so many memorable museums, landmarks, and attractions, it says quite a bit that her service left such a lasting impression during what for many is a very special and personally fulfilling trip to Washington, D.C.

My colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee would certainly appreciate this example of Erica's hard work and dedication to the team. When the health care bill was brought up for a markup in the committee last summer, my senior policy advisor on health care issues was out of the office on maternity leave. So Erica stepped in to pinch hit for, essentially, her first Major League at-bat.

Madam Speaker, that marathon markup on the 2,032-page bill was Erica's very first hands-on experience in the committee process. Without missing a beat, she dove head-first into the complicated new policy implications of this massive piece of legislation. Put in a similar position, many others might have been intimidated by the pressure and greatly elevated stakes. She held more than her own, even helping me successfully attach several amendments important to rural Oregon to the committee version of the bill.

As I'm sure you can imagine, Madam Speaker, it is bittersweet to lose a member of the team like Erica. On the one hand, it is never easy to replace someone who brings to the table an outgoing personality, strong work ethic, and commitment to public service. But on the other hand, it's impossible not to be happy for her as she enters what will no doubt be a very exciting stage of her life.

While Erica is leaving Capitol Hill, she is entering a private professional organization where she will continue to remain deeply involved in public policy work, something that I know is a priority for Erica.

Beyond her professional growth, Erica recently became engaged to Danny Fernandez, a fellow Oregonian and former staffer for Senator Gordon Smith. They plan to marry next year, and I couldn't be any happier for the both of them—even if Danny hails from the wrong side of Oregon's Civil War. In all seriousness, they are two wonderfully talented individuals, and I wish them the very best as they go down the very exciting path before them.

Erica also became an aunt for the first time just a couple of short weeks ago. It must have been near torture for Erica to wait a week before heading down to Georgia to see the new addition to her family, but her pride in her sister and baby Seth has been evident ever since she announced the happy news.

Madam Speaker, I've already noted how constituents have showered praise upon Erica for her work. Just as importantly, I'd wager that if you polled my staff and the professionals who regularly come and go through my office, they would tell you that having the privilege to interact with Erica makes every day that much better. The world could always use a few more people like that. I can't think of many higher compliments.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4899, although I have strong reservations about the situation in Afghanistan.

I am glad that President Obama has remained committed to the draw-down of U.S. forces from Iraq. In August, another 20,000 American troops will return home from Iraq, leaving only 50,000 deployed there. We are on schedule to have all combat troops home by the end of 2011. H.R. 4899 funds this process, providing supplies, ammunition, and fuel for the ships and planes bringing our troops home.

I am also supportive of the disaster aid included in this bill, which allows FEMA to help communities rebuild after recent disastrous weather events and gives aid to Haiti. Further, the bill contains important funding for health care for veterans suffering from diseases related to Agent Orange, including b-cell leukemia, Parkinson's, and ischemic heart disease.

Regarding Afghanistan, I am still convinced that the presence of the Taliban and al Qaeda there and in Pakistan poses a serious threat to U.S. and Global security. Our troops are needed to continue the fight against enemies who have shown themselves committed to, and capable of, killing American citizens here and abroad.

However, after more than 10 years of war, the situation in Afghanistan is still deeply concerning. A spate of bad news in recent months has served to deepen public mistrust over the previous administration's conduct of the war, and raises questions about how to move forward. We have reliable and repeated reports that the Pakistani Intelligence Service, the ISI, is collaborating with the Taliban, and that the rampant corruption in the Afghan Government of Hamid Karzai jeopardizes our mission and the lives of our troops. It is time for the United States to engage in a thoughtful, national conversation about the direction of this war.

Just last December, President Obama laid out his plan to refocus the conflict in Afghanistan and clearly articulate what we are trying to achieve and when we plan to bring our troops home to their families. Our commitment to Afghanistan is not open-ended, a point that must be reinforced to both the American and Afghan people.

Although we must continually re-examine our involvement in Afghanistan and Pakistan, it is important to remember our goals in Afghanistan are still worthy. Our troops are denying the Taliban the profits of the drug trade, promoting education for girls and women, providing power and clean water to villages lacking it, and working to build a functioning and stable government.

Ultimately, unless we make significant progress fighting the insurgency it is hard to envision the U.S. achieving these goals in any lasting way. Our allies need to show similar progress: The Karzai government must rein in corruption and Pakistan must purge its intelligence service of Taliban supporters. Without

these developments, I do not believe it is worth additional sacrifice of American lives or resources.

In summary, despite these strong reservations, I plan to support this bill. The President announced his new strategy for Afghanistan only eight months ago, and General Petraeus has been in command for only a month. It is too early to pass judgment on their leadership, especially given the clear failure of the previous administration to pursue those who attacked us from Afghanistan while they diverted military and other resources to Iraq. I would strongly urge, however, that this be the last supplemental used to fund these conflicts. It is hard to envision how a war that has lasted more than 10 years can not be funded as part of the normal defense appropriation process.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. ARDILL WRIGHT, JR.

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 30, 2010

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Pearl Harbor survivor and influential community member, Ardill Wright, Jr., for his life of service to his community and country.

Mr. Wright enlisted in the U.S. Navy in Wichita Falls, Texas on February 14, 1940. On the morning of December 7, 1941, while stationed in Hawaii, Ardill Wright's peaceful morning was suddenly disrupted by the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. While on the deck of the USS *Raleigh*, Mr. Wright narrowly survived a Japanese attack on his ship. Overcoming the chaos and disaster of that morning, Mr. Wright valiantly and courageously saved several of his fellow service members, most notably rescuing multiple sailors trapped in the USS *Utah* by cutting a hole in the ship's keel. Following the attack, Mr. Wright resumed his service aboard the *Raleigh* until the conclusion of World War II.

Following his discharge from the Navy in 1946, Mr. Wright moved to Washington State and became a member of the American Legion, Kent Post 15. Consistent with the American Legion's objectives to benefit and serve the community through the organization of local programs for veterans and their families, Mr. Wright co-founded the highly successful Kent American Legion baseball program in 1961. Additionally, Mr. Wright contributed to the Kent community by serving as team manager well into the 1990s, and ran concessions at Kent Memorial Park until 2004.

In honor of his tireless service to his community, the main diamond at Kent Memorial Park was renamed Art Wright Field in 2003. Additionally, that same year, Mr. Wright was presented with the Kent Kiwanis Citizen of the Year award.

Ardill Wright, Jr. passed away on May 25, 2010, in his Kent home. Mr. Wright is survived by his three sons: Joe, Ardill III, and Shannon, as well as his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. His life profoundly reflected selfless commitment to others, and his admirable citizenship and character continue to live on in the Kent community today.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ardill Wright, Jr., for his selfless commitment to others, his military service

and heroism, and his dedication to his community and country.

RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF STUDENT NONVIOLENT CO-
ORDINATING COMMITTEE AND
THE NATIONAL SIT-IN MOVE-
MENT

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1566, which commemorates the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) and the National Sit-In Movement. I want to give a special thank you to my fellow Georgian and the Dean of the Georgia delegation, Representative JOHN LEWIS for introducing this bill and for his own personal courage in participating in the Civil Rights Movement. Congressman LEWIS is an American hero whose bravery has improved the quality of life for millions now and in the future.

The sit-in movement was started by the extraordinary bravery of four young men in Greensboro, North Carolina. In February of 1960, these brave men started a movement that grew to more than 30 communities in seven different states in only one month's time. Even more impressive is how one and a half years after the inception of the sit-ins, the movement had attracted over 70,000 participants and a sit-in had occurred in every Southern state. The sit-in movement was truly

a grassroots movement that showed the power of the cause and of the method. By choosing non-violent action, the sit-in movement was able to win hearts and minds across the country and led to the integration of restaurants, bus lines and public facilities all over the nation.

The Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee is another extraordinary and influential group that played a major role in the civil rights movement. Founded in April, 1960, in Raleigh, North Carolina, the SNUG grew into a large organization that operated across the south. The group was inspired by the Greensboro sit-ins and began with an \$800 grant from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), founded in my home State of Georgia, for a conference where student activists could share experiences and coordinate activities. The conference was a success and was attended by 126 students in 12 states. Julian Bond and Representative JOHN LEWIS, both from my home State of Georgia, were among the attendees at the April 1960 conference. Congressman JOHN LEWIS went on to be the 3rd Chairman of the SNCC.

The SNCC grew to prominence, and put themselves at great personal risk, by organizing "freedom rides" across the deep south. At least 436 people took part in these Freedom Rides during the spring and summer of 1961. The SNCC grew into an organization of organizers dedicated to building community-based political organizations of the rural poor. After the Freedom Rides, the SNCC worked primarily on voter registration, along with local protests about segregated public facilities. As a final, monumental step, the group took the leading role in the 1963 March on Washington where more than 200,000 people marched

peacefully to the Lincoln Memorial to demand equal justice for all citizens under the law. The next year, this group merged with Congress on Racial Equality and the National Advancement of Colored People with the primary goal of creating a desegregated political climate necessary to pass legislation to expand civil rights and voting rights for all citizens. I agree with Julian Bond when he said that "a final SNCC legacy is the destruction of the psychological shackles which had kept black southerners in physical and mental peonage; SNCC helped break those chains forever. It demonstrated that ordinary women and men, young and old, could perform extraordinary tasks."

The civil rights movement changed the fabric of America. The movement led to the passage of The Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which put an end to legal discrimination and segregation in this country. That battle for full equality is not yet over, however. As we move forward, we must remember the past and the resounding success of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the National Sit-In Movement.

As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am honored to address the House of Representatives on the fiftieth anniversary of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the National Sit-In Movement. I walk in the footsteps of JOHN LEWIS and Julian Bond, great civil rights leaders from Georgia, whose heroism and bravery improved the lives of all Americans. Fifty years later, we all owe a debt of gratitude to the civil rights movement and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.